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Islamic Affairs

World Islamic Popular Command Meeting in Tripoli

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Session

LD1903145490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has attended the opening session of the Second General Conference of the World Islamic Popular Command which began its proceedings this morning in Tripoli with the participation of Islamic scholars, theoreticians, leaderships, and activities from all parts of the world.

The brother leader of the revolution spoke in the opening session on issues of Islam and Muslims in all parts of the world and on the unbearable scorn and infringment the Arab nation and the Islamic peoples are subjected to by the crusader and Zionist forces. The brother leader of the revolution explained in his address that the Arab nation and the countries of the Islamic world are being subjected to premeditated terrorism, reiterating that there is a real obstacle on the future path of the Arab nation and the Muslims everywhere represented by the United States which is leading the 10th crusader campaign.

Urges Boycott of 'Evil' Forces

LD2003221890 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has called upon the members of the International Islamic People's Command to incite their countries to boycott completely the forces of evil on this planet. He adds that we should lay (?siege to) those forces permitting nobody to besiege us. It is we that should besiege them. They are in need of us to sell their consumer goods.

In his talk at the opening session of the Second General Congress of the International Islamic People's Command held currently in Tripoli, the leader says that any peace with the U.S. is deception and hypocrisy. There should be no U.S., British or German embassy in any Islamic state. Nor should any plane or ship be allowed in the land of Islam belonging to these forces of Satan.

The leader of the revolution has (? pointed) to the missions sent by these forces to the land of Islam to spread subversion and Christianise the Moslems stressing that this is because we are living in a battle with the crusades facing a tenth crusade led by the US.

Discusses Islam, 'Masses'

LD2003223790 Tripoli JANA in English 1650 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has stressed that Islam is 'jamahiri'. It speaks of the masses, not the rulers.

In his talk at the opening session of the Second General Congress of the International Islamic People's Command held in Tripoli, the leader has said that everything in Islam is 'jamahiri'. There is no representation in it starting from prayers, pilgrimage down to jihad. He adds that there is also no army in Islam. Rather, there is a struggle (mujahid) and armed people. All Moslems conduct consultations regarding the issues facing them. Allah says:- Matters concerning them are conducted through consultations.

More on Authority, 'Masses'

LD2003223990 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution addressing the International Islamic People's Command says: Should we want to create an Islamic revolution, Islamic jihad and awakening, apart from changing the course of history bringing back to the domineering forces their sensibility, we should keep under control the street, not the authority.

In his talk before the members of the command in their second congress held currently in Tripoli, he has said that from now on we should leave the seat of authority to whomsoever wants to take it because it is worthless. Neither can it do anything.

He has stressed that the U.S. cannot change the peoples at a time it is capable of changing the governments which it doesn't like. We should be in those places where we can announce our rejection to the U.S. and its disregard for us. He has pointed out that the governments are incapable of doing such a thing.

Addressing the above members, he says: 'Should I be a ruler, I would not be able to do all of this. Should I be a president, I would not be able to meet you only for a courtesy. Neither, would I be able to establish an Islamic command challenging and saying that we should boycott the U.S. and the forces of evil. I, he adds, say this is a satanic force desiring to be a God. The U.S. is a devil on this planet. Should I be a ruler, I would not be able to say such a thing. This is not possible diplomatically.

He continues that should anybody of you become a ruler, he cannot dare say this owing to diplomacy and owing to policy and at times owing to the regional interests of his country.

Terms Period 'Era of Masses'

LD2003225290 Tripoli JANA in English 1658 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution drew the attention of the members of WIPC [World Islamic Popular Command] to the falsehood of the belief that arriving to power would lead to the rule of Islam and its victory.

He asserted that this era is the era of the masses was laid down in the Green Book. In his address to the opening session of the Second General Congress of WIPC convened in Tripoli, he said "this era is the era of the masses. If we want to boycott America, we must not be in power but we must in the street".

The leader pointed out that the world has changed. If the people of the Soviet Union closes rank and reject the exodus of Jews of the Caspian to Palestine, then the Moscow government would have not been able to walk along this road. Also if we were to convince the American people to stand against the policy of its government from this or that stance, the U.S. Government then will not find any support for it to continue persuing its aggressive policy.

Views Religion, Rule Imbalance

LD2003225590 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution explained that if there to be a combination between rule, religion, jihad and Islam then the balances will go wrong. Because jihad is something not power and not rule the same as religion is not rule.

In his address to the opening session of WIPC [World Islamic Popular Command] Second International Conference convened in Tripoli now, the leader asserted that it is not possible for any Muslim to raise his sword in the face of his brother Muslim except if he was to become a ruler and did not rule by Islamic law (shari'a).

Comments on 'Islamic Sabotage,' Jihad

LD2003230390 Tripoli JANA in English 1704 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution once again denounced any Muslim ruler establishing relations with America. He asserted that such a ruler in such a situation had seperated himself from Islam.

In his address to the opening session of the Second International Congress of WIPC [World Islamic People's Command] currently convened in Tripoli, the leader reviewed the hostile stances of the crusading powers led by the U.S. against the Arab nation and the Islamic world. He pointed out to the veto imposed upon our future from the economic, agricultural, and industrial aspect.

The leader called for resisting such hostile attitude by saying: "This mockery now must be resisted by us or we better die. Because we are better under than over the ground".

The leader expressed anger towards Arab silence in the face of the boasting of the crusaders in the Islamic world starting with the occupation of Palestine and transforming it into (Israel) and 'Akko, Haifa, Yafo, Lud and Ramla which has become the property of the swines who used to live in the North Pole—in Russia. He asserted that what is happening now is a mockery and absolute nonsense.

The leader called for the declaration of jihad against crusading and Zionism. He said "If we did not declare jihad against those, then against whom are we going to declare it?" He denounced in this respect that some Islamic group resort to acts of sabotage inside the Islamic countries. He pointed out that if such an effort was exerted in the Golan then it would have been liberated... and if such effort exerted against the Zionist presence in Egypt, then the Zionists would have refrained from entering it.

Wants Bank Under WIPC Auspices

LD2003230790 Tripoli JANA in English 1709 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution called on the masses of Muslims to turn all the mosques into headquarters for Islamic congresses (shura).

He also called for the establishment of a bank under the supervision of the World Islamic Popular Command (WIPC) to collect a dinar from each Muslim in the world who number one billion Muslims, which will make Muslims stronger than America.

In his address to the opening session of WIPC Second International Congress currently convened in Tripoli, the leader explained "by doing so we establish popular institutions we desire and by doing that we will be able to establish arms industries". He pointed out that in America there are arm factories which are not owned by the U.S. Government.

Calls For Unity of Nationalities

LD2003231190 Tripoli JANA in English 1712 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution explained that we must admit that this nation consists of nationalities which we respect.

In his address to the opening session of WIPC [World Islamic Popular Command] Second International Conference currently held in Tripoli, he said "we are brothers in Islam gathered together by Islam. If tyranny was practiced upon a nation or a nationality of the nationalities forming the Islamic nation, then all the other nationalities must support it and stand by it".

Wants Money out of 'Jewish' Banks

LD2003231490 Tripoli JANA in English 1714 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution urged Muslims to work towards withdrawing the Arab oil money piled up in the Jewish banks in America asserting that such a deed is a sacred battle.

Addressing the opening session of the Second International Conference of WIPC [World Islamic Popular Command] currently held in Tripoli, the leader asserted that the presence of these assets in the Jewish banks is a matter not accepted at all by Islam and its atheism itself.

Calls For Islamic Cultural Revolution

LD2003231790 Tripoli JANA in English 1716 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution called for the creation of an Islamic cultural revolution.

Addressing the opening session of the Second International Conference for WIPC [World Islamic Popular Command] currently convened in Tripoli, he explained that by such a revolution we will be able to follow the right way and get away from rule, demonstrations, police, parties and elections.

The leader asserted that the freedom of the Muslim will be incomplete amid false laws and that the real liberty for the Muslim will be embodied when we establish a shura council and decide the things we want away from imported laws and constitutions from the West.

Israeli Withdrawal 'Impossibility'

LD2003231990 Tripoli JANA in English 1718 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabie [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader confirmed the impossibility of the withdrawal of Zionists from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said "such withdrawal is an impossible thing, because their map stretches from the Euphrates to the Nile to Mecca".

In his address to the opening session of WIPC [World Islamic Popular Command] Second International Conference, the leader explained that the Zionists want the Islamic world to be under their control and domination by atomic power, germ bombs and chemical weapons they are manufacturing and forbid them to be manufactured by Arabs and Muslims.

Palestinian Affairs

Carter Cancels Visit Due to 'Arafat Absence

JN2003152790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has canceled a visit to Tunis, where he had intended to meet with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat as part of his current Middle East tour. The reason for the postponement [as heard] is 'Arafat's absence from the Tunisian capital. 'Arafat is currently in Namibia to participate in the country's independence day celebrations, according to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. Carter has already visited Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Israel.

Carter Meeting With Palestinian Group Assailed

JN1803185090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1550 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Our kinfolk and beloved ones in the steadfast Gaza Strip, our kinfolks and beloved ones in Jerusalem, and our kinfolk and beloved ones in all of Palestine, we remind you that today is 18 March. On this day, the day of martyrdom and martyrs, the day of the Zionist massacres with U.S. weapons, we received news that some of the supporters of dialogue and negotiations and those who peddle capitulatory schemes are preparing to meet with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who needs no introduction, who orchestrated the treasonous Camp David accords, and who was the witness to these accords. Our kinfolks and beloved ones in Palestine, we have received such a report as well as the names of the group that was invited to meet with the former U.S. President in the U.S. Consulate.

To the champions of the dialogue in the Notre Dame and Tel Aviv Hilton hotels, and those who advocate two states for two peoples we say: Just remember that our people, our relatives, and beloved ones in and outside Palestine are being killed every day with U.S.-made weapons. Remember that the saw that cuts our Palestinian people's bones is made in the United States. Remember U.S. policy, which is completely hostile to our people everywhere and at all times. You would do yourselves a service if you keep this in mind.

Al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the road to the liberation of land and man on the anniversary of the massacre in the Shaykh Radwan quarter in Gaza that coincides with today, 18 March, clasps your hands, O our kinfolk and beloved ones, and reaffirms to you that neither they nor anyone else can change the ugly U.S. face. God supports us and victory is imminent. Let us proceed together on the road to liberate land and man.

Commentary on Carter's Influence on U.S. Policy

JN2003191190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1747 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Dispatch by the radio news editor: "We Are the PLO; the PLO Is Us"]

[Text] During their meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in Palestine's eternal capital of Jerusalem, Palestinian nationalist figures stressed to their U.S. guest their great desire for a comprehensive and enduring peace in the Middle East on the basis of resolutions issued by international bodies and in accordance with a clear position, such as the one outlined at the 19th session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers. [passage indistinct]

At their meeting with Carter, the Palestinians clearly and unequivocally stated their support for their legitimate leadership, the PLO. They affirmed they are the PLO, and the PLO is them—the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and that nothing can serve as

an alternative to the PLO. Those figures also voiced their approval of the PLO's peaceful steps and called for a positive response to them.

With this frank and clear position adopted by the figures in the occupied Palestinian territory, our occupied territory has blocked the road to all attempts, especially by the Zionist occupation, aimed at dividing the Palestinian people between those inside and those outside, and at searching for alternative bodies which would agree to exclude the PLO—that is, to exclude the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—from the peace process in the Middle East.

In any case, and despite the fact that the great U.S. guest Jimmy Carter does not have the power to make executive decisions in the United States of America now, what is hoped for, especially as he is an expert on the details of the Palestinian issue, is that he will convey his true impressions and convictions to the United States on both popular and official levels.

It is also hoped he will play his role as a U.S. citizen representing the people's conscience to press U.S. public opinion into placing more pressure on U.S. decision-makers to force leaders of the Israeli occupation to deal with the calls for peace and to abandon intransigence, which will only prolong the conflict in the region—which is constantly tense because of Israel—and create more labyrinths and vicious circles.

Ilyas Frayj 'Ready To Participate' in Dialogue

JN1703201690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
15 Mar pp 1, 30

[By Ribhi al-Asmar]

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that he is ready to participate as a delegate to a dialogue with Israel, if asked. He said the Palestinian people want guarantees to ensure that the proposed elections in the occupied territories will be honest. He described current peace efforts as serious, and warned against losing this opportunity. He said there was no true organized opposition in the occupied territories to the PLO's peaceful approach.

In a statement to AL-ANBA' before leaving Amman the day before yesterday for the occupied territories, Frayj said the year 1990 will see the beginning of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo to discuss holding free, honest, and democratic elections in the occupied terrritories. This will pave the way for a dialogue whose objective is to hold an international peace conference leading to a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

Frayj described the PLO's peace campaign as a strategic, not tactical one. He said the PLO is sincere in its efforts and intention to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. He stressed that there was no organized or real opposition to the PLO's peaceful approach in the occupied territories, that opposition is confined to individuals, and that the majority supports the peace strategy. He added: I do not believe that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is against the peace process.

Frayj had arrived in Amman earlier from London following a short visit to Britain, during which he took part in celebrations to declare Glasgow Europe's cultural capital in 1990.

He commented that during the visit, he and Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah had a 35-minute meeting with William Waldegrave, UK minister of state at the Foreign Office, during which the UK minister, on behalf of his government—and for the first time—said that settlements throughout the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, were illegal, and called on Israel to reopen Palestinian universities. He also said Israel should respect human rights in the occupied territories, and it should, in particular, allow the reunification of Palestinian families on a larger scale.

Frayj noted the British position is more advanced than those of other European countries, and Waldegrave's position is not a personal one, but represents that of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He said the vicious circle of Israeli policy will be broken and the dialogue will begin with an open agenda.

Frayj stated that he was ready to participate in a Palestinian delegation to begin dialogue with the Israelis in Cairo. He said: My name has not yet been nominated—directly or indirectly—for the Palestinian delegation. Anything is possible, however, and can be expected, and if the PLO entrusts me with this, then it would be an honor and a national duty for me to perform. He said the party has the final say on this issue is the PLO, and whoever the PLO accepts should be accepted by the people. He said Israel is deceiving itself and knows full well it cannot find negotiators without PLO approval.

Frayj, whose name tops the latest list of the proposed Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, said Israel's mere acceptance of the idea of elections constitutes recognition of the fact that the territories are occupied and are not Israeli territory.

He added: In order to ensure honest and free elections, the Palestinians should have guarantees such as international supervision. However, these guarantees and the circumstances of holding the elections would be discussed at the Cairo negotiations.

Frayj described the current stage of the peace process as serious, saying that we have lost many golden opportunities. He admitted that signing a comprehensive peace agreement between the Arab and Israeli negotiators would take time. He noted that the Palestinians will want to ensure the success of the dialogue when it begins, and Israel will be unable to assume the responsibility for the failure of the dialogue.

Frayj said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will visit the occupied territories on 18 March to meet with Palestinian figures.

Qaddumi Condemns Jewish Immigration at UN

JN1803182090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has called on the world community, especially the United States and the Soviet Union, to adopt tangible measures against Israel. He condemned the injustice resulting from the expulsion of Palestinians from their lands and the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in their place. In a speech to the Security Council the day before yesterday, he exclaimed: What an injustice it is to expel Palestinians from their homes and force them to live in refugee camps for years while Jewish immigrants flow in to occupy their lands! He noted that since 1967, more than 200 Israeli settlements have been established in the occupied Palestinian territories despite UN condemnation of these practices.

The Security Council held two sessions to discuss Jewish immigration, especially from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine. The Soviet ambassador urged the council during the morning session to adopt a draft resolution in the form of a serious warning against Israel and its policy of settling Soviet immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. The council adjourned its deliberations to a date to be fixed after consultations among member states.

Jordanian 'Observer' To Participate in Cairo Talk

TA1903130590 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that Jordan and Egypt have agreed on Amman's sending an observer to participate in the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to be held in Cairo. It has been learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak briefed U.S. President George Bush on this issue during their recent telephone conversation. Moreover, Mubarak intends to discuss this matter with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during their meeting in Namibia.

'Arafat Confers With Indonesian Foreign Minister

JN1903183690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has received Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his delegation. The Indonesian minister conveyed to brother Abu-'Ammar the greetings of his brother, Indonesian President General Suharto, stressing that Indonesia and its fraternal people support the Palestinian people's just struggle and their blessed intifadah which seeks to achieve their national rights in ending the occupation and establishing their own independent state.

The Indonesian minister then praised the wise and brave policy pursued by the PLO under president Yasir 'Arafat, stressing Indonesia's firm and continued support under all circumstances and at all levels. He also noted that their diplomatic relations epitomized the ties of brotherhood and solidarity between the two peoples and the two states. President Abu-'Ammar asked the Indonesian minister to convey his greetings and those of the PLO to President Suharto and the fraternal Indonesian people, stressing his appreciation for Indonesia's support and positive positions.

Brother president Yasir 'Arafat then reviewed current developments with Minister Alatas, especially the intifadah and the need for its continuation and escalation, despite the iron fist policy and the intensification of the repression, crimes, and brutal Zionist terrorism against our people. He also drew attention to the dangers of immigration to the occupied territories, as well as its destructive effect on the peace and security process in the region. Brother president Yasir 'Arafat also reviewed with his Indonesian guest the developments in Asia and Southeast Asia, including the Cambodian issue.

The meeting was attended on the Indonesian side by his excellency the Indonesian ambassador in Tunis, the director of the Middle East and North Africa Department, and the director of the minister's office. On the Palestinian side, it was attended by brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Council and PLO representative in Tunis; Dr. Sami Musallam, director of the President's Office; brother Abu-Khalid al-Lahham, adviser to the Palestinian president; and brother Ribhi Abu-Firas, the appointed Palestinian ambassador to Indonesia.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Israeli Cabinet Crisis

JN1803173490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Mar 90 pp 22, 19

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the fall of the Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Shamir constitutes unequivocal proof of Shamir's rejection of peace and confirms the triumph of the intifadah, which has placed the Israeli Government in a corner.

In a telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR, Hawatimah said that Shamir and the Likud are "contradictory to the peace program and to peace in the Middle East, because Shamir has even disavowed his own plan for elections in the occupied territories and retreated from his earlier acceptance of the Baker plan."

The Palestinian official added that the Labor Party is still playing fast and loose and has not yet proposed its program for peace. He added that the fall of the coalition government will expose everything, as both the Likud and Labor will "find themselves cornered by Israeli society, the great daily pressure exerted by the intifadah, the Palestinian peace initiative, and by the comprehensive international support for the search for peace in the

Middle East. The Labor Party will, therefore, find itself compelled to present its real ideas about the Palestine question."

Regarding the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC], whose current term has expired, and the DFLP's position on restructuring the PNC, Hawatimah said that the DFLP supports the greatest possible degree of democracy in restructuring the new PNC and that the preparatory committee is currently holding meetings in Tunis to study the fundamentals for restructuring the PNC.

He also said the DFLP supports the call for electing the independent figures and qualified people through direct democratic elections by the masses in all places where Palestinians are present. He continued saying that, concerning the Palestinian mass organizations, the DFLP supports the election of those organizations' representatives in the PNC from the rank and file so that "they will become representatives of the rank and file and not only representatives of the higher bureaucratic bodies in the Palestinian mass organizations."

Regarding the Palestinian factions in the PLO, Hawatimah said each faction has its own bylaws according to which its representatives to the PNC are chosen, and different bylaws concerning elections exist within the ranks of those factions.

The DFLP secretary general stated that the DFLP urges that care be taken to lay sound foundations for PLO factions—which have been carrying the major burden in the Palestinian political, diplomatic, and militant process within the ranks of the Palestinian people—to take their proper position in view of their role and protection of the national cause.

Regarding the situation inside [the occupied territories], Hawatimah said that the DFLP supports the largest possible representation in the PNC of the people of the intifadah, represented by the intifadah pillars—the Unified National Leadership, the popular committees, and the nationalist and democratic figures that are struggling against occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

He stressed the need to convene a new PNC to conduct political self-criticism based on absolute adherence to the declaration of the independence of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian peace program, which have opened broad horizons for the intifadah.

Hawatimah said that the initiative is now in the hands of the intifadah, in the hands of the people of the intifadah, in the hands of Palestine's people, and in the hands of the PLO. The initiative should remain in our hands until we reach a comprehensive peace in the region, and we should not miss this historic opportunity. Al-Sadat lost an opportunity when he sought a unilateral solution with the enemy, paralyzing the possibility of achieving a comprehensive settlement within the framework of the Geneva conference.

He pointed out that a comprehensive settlement would have been reached if al-Sadat had remained steadfast within the alliance that was established at that time. But, he said, the dissolution of Arab solidarity destroyed that historic and exceptional opportunity. Therefore, we should reassess our situation. He reaffirmed that the aim of the DFLP is to enrich, deepen, and promote the Palestinian peace initiative to be able to give answers derived from and based on it regarding every new issue that may emerge during the course of discussions and dialogue.

Hawatimah criticized the United States for backing Israel and its attempts to divide the Palestinian people into two parts, one inside the occupied territories and the other outside. He said that the intifadah, the PNC resolutions, and the Palestinian peace initiative have placed the United States and Israel in a difficult position, adding that the U.S. Administration has tried over the past 23 years to ignore the PLO, but it failed and has now agreed to open a dialogue with it.

At the same time, he continued, the United States has never stopped trying to find an alternative to the PLO. Hence Shamir's plan, which was supported by the Egyptian 10-point plan that ignores the PLO and the international conference. Then came Baker's plan, which seeks an invisible PLO role, in line with U.S. policy and in response to pressures from the Israeli rulers. He added that there have been attempts to ignore the PLO. However, Baker's plan was amended but Shamir refused to approve it during an Israeli cabinet session. The plan calls for expanding the Palestinian delegation to include persons from the occupied territories, representatives from Jerusalem, and one or two deportees. The plan, he added, also suggests that the delegation meet with the PLO Executive Committee chairman and that the head of the delegation announce that he had met with PLO Executive Committee chairman. This is, he said, a new attempt to contain the PLO. He added that the U.S. Administration is still seeking an alternative to the PLO, a delegation that can divide the Palestinian people, and a vague PLO role, although the United States has agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO.

Hawatimah also stated that the DFLP and all factions of the PLO are committed to the resolutions the Central Council adopted last October: namely, that the PLO is the only party with the right to form its delegation from citizens inside and outside the occupied territories, that there should be an open agenda for negotiations between a PLO delegation and an Israeli delegation, and that the dialogue should be held under UN auspices and should lead to an international peace conference. He added that every one recalls the famous UN-sponsored Namibian example.

Hawatimah called on the U.S. Administration to revive the channel of direct Palestinian-U.S. dialogue so that the United States and the PLO can proceed with the dialogue openly and clearly and not secretly. The Palestinian official rejected any dealings through the Egyptian, Swedish, or any other channel. He said there are some tactical differences in the PLO ranks. However, he stressed the

need to abide by the PLO Central Council's resolutions, and to prevent any party from pressuring the PLO.

On the DFLP's relations with Jordan and the possibility of Hawatimah's visit to Jordan, he said: Within the framework of the normalization of relations, all doors are open. It is a pleasure for me to visit Jordan, especially since it is now necessary to normalize relations between the DFLP and the brothers in Jordan. In this regard, Hawatimah said that the DFLP has taken further steps to secure normal relations between the two fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, "between our people struggling for their right to self-determination and to build the institutions of their independent state in occupied Palestine, and the fraternal Jordanian people in their independent state." He added that they [the DFLP] have taken decisive steps to give full political independence from DFLP policy to the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, which is struggling within the ranks of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples in Jordan. He went on: All these steps are part of continuing the DFLP's policy of normalization with fraternal Jordan. In this respect, we hope that future steps will be taken, including the expected visit to our brothers in Jordan.

DFLP Official Reiterates No Leadership Split

JN2103072590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 90 p 1

[By Zakariyah Muhammad, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Tunis— A senior official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has denied reports that the groups' leadership was split over the efforts to settle the Palestinian problem.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, assistant secretary of the DFLP, said although there were differences of viewpoints among the group's members and leaders, these do not mean that the faction was on the verge of a split.

Speaking in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and head of the PLO team that is in contact with the American ambassador to Tunisia, said democracy had always been one of the main features of the group, and the emergence of differences in viewpoints and opinions were the result of such democracy.

"We have been trying to enhance this democracy for over one year now, and it is the only safeguard against divisions," he told the JORDAN TIMES.

'Abd-Pabbuh's statements followed reports that the DFLP was split into two groups—one headed by DFLP General Secretary Nayif Hawatimah and the other by 'Abd-Rabbuh himself, over the PLO's tactics.

"The Palestinian people cannot afford any divisions, particularly that the uprising is raging in the occupied lands," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

The 27-month-old uprising has changed the relationship between various PLO factions and Arab governments, he said. "When the Palestinian struggle was being waged from outside (the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip), relations with Arab governments were a top priority," he said. "Now that this struggle is from within, priorities have to be reconsidered," he added.

According to 'Abd-Rabbuh, the DFLP has accepted the principle of a two-state solution to the Palestinian problem, but there was debate within the group whether or not to declare this position in public.

"It is my conviction that such a programme should be made very clear since it strengthens the uprising," he said.

Gaza Activist on Israel Cabinet Crisis, Hamas

JN2103075790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 90 p 5

[By Sana' 'Atiyah, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—The collapse of the multi-party coalition government in Israel has boosted the hopes of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for a solution to the Palestinian problem, according to a leading activist from the Gaza Strip.

However, the hopes essentially centre around the possibility that the left-of-centre Labour Party, which says it favours "territorial compromise" as the key to peace, said Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, a prominent lawyer from Gaza.

"We hope that the new Israeli government will be formed by the Labour Party because we believe and hope that it will deal more seriously with the Palestinians and the peace process," Abu-Rahmah told the JORDAN TIMES Tuesday.

Abu-Rahmah, who is currently on a private visit to Jordan, said that although the collapse of the Israeli government last week would delay the peace process "until the political scene in Israel is reorganised," he did not believe that it was a "show." He said that the downfall of the government appeared to be stage-managed, but that he believed that in reality it was due to serious differences between Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Party and Shim'on Peres's Labour on the peace process.

According to Abu-Rahmah, the Palestinians had harboured little hope for peace when the Likud-led government was in power since it had no real and serious intention to make just peace with the Palestinians. "It insisted on implementing autonomy for Palestinians rather than talking with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and accepting the principle of exchanging land for peace," he noted.

"Palestinians were pleased with the fall of Shamir's government, especially that it did not show any moderation; all its lines were of fanaticism and extremism, without any flexibility," commented Abu- Rahmah, who

is strongly favoured to be included in a Palestinian delegation in any peace negotiations with Israel.

Although many Palestinians find it only remotely possible that a Labour-led government would accept to negotiate with the PLO, the lawyer said, "Nothing is impossible in politics. What seems impossible today in Arab-Israeli politics may be possible tomorrow. Positions are moveable and policies may change. Whoever thought in the 1940s that Germany and France would both become members of the same North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the 1950s?"

Abu-Rahmah reiterated that Israel should open negotations with the PLO, which, he said, the Palestinians in the occupied territories regard as their sole and legitimate representative.

"The PLO has the mandate. It can make concessions without being accused of being a traitor as an ordinary peson who does not have the mandate and who may make political concessions on behalf of the Palestinians. So it is beneficial for the peace process to have a party with a full mandate from the (Palestinian) population. And the only one in the Palestinian field is the PLO." he said.

Abu-Rahmah denied that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas—an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood—was dominant in the Gaza Strip, saying it represented no more than 15 per cent of the population. He described "the rumours" in the international media that the group was more influential and strong in Gaza than the PLO as an Israeli attempt to undermine Palestinian unity.

"Israel tries to split us by spreading word that extremism and fundamentalism are strong in the occupied territories. In reality, Hamas does not represent more than 15 per cent of the Gaza population," he said.

Abu-Rahmah, who is representing Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin who is on trial by an Israeli court, said that the underground Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which includes PLO supporters, remains the dominant factor in the occupied territories, issuing calls for strikes and demonstrations. He noted that the majority of the people complies with the calls of the unified leadership.

"For example, Hamas is not stronger than Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian military group. But I'm basing my judgement according to my observations and not on scientific merits," he said.

The lawyer added that Hamas strategy contradicts the strategy of the secular PLO.

"Hamas is a group which bases its ideology that all Palestine ought to be an Islamic republic and does not believe in political solutions, a strategy that contradicts that of the PLO," Abu-Rahmah said.

He described Hamas's strategy as "unrealistic" because, "unlike the PLO, which enjoys the largest popular Palestinian support, the group is dealing with the impossible."

"But in every community there are people who deal with both the possible and the impossible," he commented.

Abu-Rahmah warned that if Israel does not respond positively to the Palestinian overtures for peace and if the United States does not seriously intervene by pressuring Israel to respond as such, Palestinian fundamentalism and extremism will become stronger.

"Therefore, it is the responsibility of American, Arab and other leaders of the world to help Palestinian moderation and let it bear fruit," Abu-Rahmah said.

Egypt

Mubarak, Baker: PLO Must Wait for Israeli Moves

MB2003161190 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1555 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Windhoek March 20 SAPA—There could be no progress in the Middle East peace process until a new Israeli Government had been formed, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak agreed in Windhoek on Tuesday [20 March].

"Shamir government, Perez government—that is none of my business. We have to deal with the government elected by the people," Mr Mubarak told reporters after talks with Mr Baker.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation would just have to wait, because Israel was not in a position to move, he added.

The Egyptian leader said he did not believe Mr Yitzak Shamir was serious about peace but still hoped he would change his mind.

"If we could move quickly it would be better for both sides, better for the Palestinians and better for the Israelis. If peace prevails—and I say this from the bottom of my heart—Israel will be the biggest winner," he said.

Mr Baker said he believed the Namibian model of UN-supervised elections was an excellent way of solving conflicts, but he stopped short of proposing such a model for Israel.

Mubarak on Israel, Al-Rabitah

NC2003182690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Windhoek, 20 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that it would be better if an Israeli Government were formed as soon as possible because that would serve the peace process. In statements to journalists and to news agency and international television correspondents today, Mubarak said that if this happens Israel will be the biggest winner in the peace process. He added that we must wait until an Israeli Government is formed.

Answering a question on which government would be better, one led by Peres or one headed by Shamir, President Mubarak said: "That is none of my business. We will deal with any government the Israelis choose."

Responding to a question on the destruction of the chemical weapons factory in Libya, President Husni Mubarak said: "At any rate I am opposed to chemical weapons. However, allow me not to be specific [wa lakin da'ni min hadha al-tahdid]."

When asked whether he thinks Shamir is serious or not about the peace talks, the president expressed hope that Shamir will change his mind. President Mubarak voiced the hope that the tripartite meeting [between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state] will be held in Cairo. He told the journalists he hoped to see them at this meeting.

Asked how delaying the peace process affects the Palestinians, the president said: We all must wait because the other party, "Israel," has not yet defined its stand. President Mubarak said the peace process cannot be implemented without the other party.

Fall of Israeli Coalition Government Viewed

'Suspect Aims' Seen

JN1703151690 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Mar 90 p 5

[Editorial: "What Shamir's New Maelstrom Is About"]

[Text] Having fired his finance minister, Shim'on Peres, the leader of his Labor Party coalition partner—thus triggering the resignation of the other Labor ministers in the government—the Likud bloc leader, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, has stirred up a new maelstrom to divert world attention from the Palestinian question and Mideast peace efforts. Shamir is thus relieved of any international political pressure to stop waffling and commit himself one way or another on the question of peace.

Without a doubt, the Isreli prime minister's strategy has suspect aims that are lost on nobody. Shamir is out to create conditions that would help him avoid making a commitment on Secretary Baker's plan concerning the Israeli prime minister's proposals for a dialogue with the Palestinians; and conditions that would bring Jewish American pressure on the Bush administration to back away from urging Tel Aviv to respond to the Baker plan and to halt settlement activity in the occupied Arab land. Shamir also wants the United States to drop any linkage between U.S. aid and the settling of Soviet Jews in occupied territory.

With Israel shorn of effective government, an international community anxious to see the end of tension and conflict in such a strategic region as the Middle East will have to sit and wait until Israel's ministerial crisis works itself out before it resumes its peace efforts. Similarly, the PLO, which has gone all the way as far as concessions are concerned,, and the Palestinian people, whose children are enduring the daily brutality of Israel's efforts to put down the intifadah, will have to wait until Mr. Shamir has had another go at forming another government.

It is a tragedy—indeed a farce—and God only knows when it will end.

Part of Prepared 'Scenario'

JN1703172890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Mar 90 p 6

["At Close Range" column by: Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Shamir Toying With Peace"]

[Text] The collapse of Israel's ruling coalition has surprised no one. Indeed, the move had been anticipated as part of a scenario long prepared by Shamir to wreck the self-styled peace plan—fashioned by Shamir himself—and to wriggle out of any commitments that the dialogue with the Palestinians might produce. Right from the beginning when, in May, Shamir proposed an elections plan for the occupied territory, not a single Arab or Palestinian believed that Shamir was serious and that he really meant to sit down with the Palestinians for talks on a settlement. The Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, believed that—with Gorbachev busy with the changes sweeping the USSR—Shamir and his government only sought to put down the intifadah and bury the idea of the proposed international Middle East peace conference. It was to scuttle the international conference that Shamir came up with the story of elections. Only Washington bought the story, and it had to; it was early days for the Bush administration and it was expected to come up with something to propel the Middle East peace process forward. Like the chicken that laid a bad egg, Shamir waited for Washington to convince the Arabs that the Israeli egg would hatch peace.

In the ten months since May, the Shamir government has resorted to every kind of procrastination and senseless maneuverings to make sure his own plan never materialized. He did not so much as spell out how his plan would translate into practice. And, when Egypt proposed a ten-point formula based on Shamir's blueprint, the Israeli prime minister was beside himself, and so Baker stepped in with his five-point plan. But rather than prove acceptable to the Israeli prime minister, as Baker had believed, the American secretary's plan was equally unacceptable.

In order to evade answering persistent U.S. questions, Shamir contrived a row with then-minister Sharon to create an atmosphere of crisis and thus delay an Israeli response. With Sharon out of office, the one option left for Shamir in delaying a response for several more months was to unravel the coalition government.

Obviously, Shamir wants to buy time for the Soviet Jews to arrive and to settle them in occupied Arab land under the cover of a ministerial crisis in Israel. It will also be an opportunity to back away from the proposed elections in the occupied land. That says it all.

Israeli Politician Hails Fall

NC1703151590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—Latif Dori, secretary of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue committee and a leader of the Israeli opposition party Mapam, is currently visiting Cairo. He expressed satisfaction over the fall of Yitzhaq Shamir's government, which was a big obstacle to a just peace.

Dori stressed that the aim of the peace plan proposed by Shamir at the time, against the Palestinian peace initiative, was to gain time and to deceive world public opinion. However, he actually did not change his policy of no's which denied the Palestinian people's rights and rejected recognition of the PLO as their sole, legitimate representative, while continuing the policy of oppression in the occupied territories, site of the intifadah against the hated occupation.

Dori added that it is now possible to form a new government from the Alignment, the left-wing parties, and some religious parties on the basis of an agreed-upon peace program which will help salvage the peace process and propel it forward by giving a positive response to the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal and thus pave the way for the Cairo meeting.

Nationals Accused of Spying To Face Trial

JN1803184090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Mar 90 p 14

[By Mahmud al-Nubi]

[Excerpt] The trial of two Palestinians accused of contacting Israel and attempting to recruit Egyptians to spy for Israel will begin tomorrow at the Supreme State Security Court. The court will be presided over by Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ishmawi, with Counselors Wasfi Nashid and Ahmad Amin as members and 'Abd-al-Muttalib Sha'ban as secretary.

The details of the case were revealed following a statement made to the higher state security prosecutor by an Egyptian girl, Sahar Muhammad 'Umar, who resides in Cairo. She said in the statement that two unidentified young men attempted to recruit her to spy against Egypt by trying to win her over with money. She pretended to accept and the two men took her to Abu-Harun, an officer of the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad, who promised her huge sums of money if she carried out duties assigned to her, collected information on Egypt, and handed it over when she visited Israel.

The girl added that she first met one of the two young men in a taxi when she crossed at Rafah and that the man talked to her about conditions in Egypt and introduced her to the second man, who took her to see Abu-Harun. [passage omitted]

Israeli, Palestinian Sentenced

NC1903173090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Today the Supreme State Security Court for Emergencies sentenced Ibrahim Sabah 'Ararah, an Israeli national, and 'Awad Musa

Thabit, a Palestinian national, on charges of collaborating with the Israeli intelligence service and trying to persuade an Egyptian woman to commit the crime of espionage for a foreign country in order to harm Egypt's military position. The court also fined Thabit 1,000 pounds.

In its ruling, the court said that the two defendents showed total disregard for the interests of both Palestine and Egypt, sold themselves out to treason, and engaged in the vile act of trying to recruit honorable Egyptians to betray their homeland and their people, to sell military secrets, to sow the seeds of social strife, and to undermine the country's security. Such atrocious acts of treason deserve the utmost punishment by the law, the court said.

The court called on legislators to enact stiffer laws for similar crimes so as to protect the country and the citizens and to preempt such treason against a country with a great record of sacrifice for Palestine and Arab causes.

The Higher State Security Court for Emergencies held a session this morning presided over by Counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi. It listened to the testimony of Sahar Sa'id Muhammad 'Umar, 25, who explained the circumstances of her acquaintance with the second defendant 'Awan Thabit, 35. Sahar 'Umar said that she met Thabit when she and her sister crossed over to Israel at Rafah to visit relatives living in the occupied territories. Thabit was their taxi driver. He asked her about her work, and she said she was not working. He then asked her to bring some merchandise from Khan al-Khalili bazaar on her next visit to Israel.

Sahar 'Umar said that Thabit introduced her to the second defendent Ibrahim Sabah, who is still at large. Thabit then took her to an Israeli military building in which she met an intelligence officer named Abu-Harun. Abu-Harun asked about her living conditions and friends in Cairo and the jobs of their parents. He asked if any of her acquaintances worked for the Egyptian Army, and she replied that she was engaged to an Army officer.

The Israeli intelligence officer then asked her to obtain unspecified [lam tuhaddad naw'iyataha] military information and news in return for financial rewards, and he promised to buy her an automobile.

Sahar 'Umar said that as soon as she returned from Israel, she informed the responsible authorities of what happened.

Sharif 'Abd-al-Nabi, deputy attorney at the State Security Prosecution office, asked the court to pass the maximum sentence on the defendants in order to deter anyone who contemplates a similar act against Egypt. He said that the defendants betrayed the homeland for money and took no notice of Egypt's honor and the honorable struggle of the stone-throwing children in Palestine.

The Egyptian security organs arrested 'Awad Thabit upon his return to Egypt on 14 October 1989. The first defendant, Ibrahim Sabah 'Ararah, is still at large.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Foreign Policy

NC1503183890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1441 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt's efforts in all directions are to achieve progress in the Middle East peace process to bring about a just, comprehensive, and durable solution to the Palestinian issue that would put an end to the suffering of the region's peoples.

He noted that these strenuous efforts have made some progress, thanks to the Palestinian peace initiatives and to the positive participation of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that the Israeli Government will respond to the peace efforts in good faith, especilly because peace, as President Husni Mubarak has emphasized on several occasions, will benefit Israel as much as it will benefit the rest of the region.

This came in 'Abd-al-Majid's address, marking the Egyptian diplomacy's third anniversary [as received].

Reviewing Egypt's diplomatic efforts in the last year, he said the year 1989-90 has been unique by any standard. Many accomplishments were made during this period, the foremost being Egypt's restoration of ties with all Arab countries without exception and the resumption of Egypt's membership in the Arab League, which greatly contributed to the development of relations with the Arab countries. He noted that this led to the fraternal Arab countries' foreign ministers' decision to return the Arab League to its original headquarters in Cairo.

He pointed out that the consolidation of cooperation between the Arab Cooperation Council and other Arab councils within the framework of the Arab League will be most beneficial to our Arab world in general.

Regarding the economy, he said that both bilateral and multilateral efforts aim to achieve an appropriate settlement of the Third World countries' debt issue.

He said Egypt believes that a settlement satisfactory to both the creditor and debtor nations will affect positively the world economy and on the development process in the developing countries.

He pointed out that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is seriously following developments and changes in Eastern European countries and their economic or political effects on our region.

Commenting on the diplomatic accomplishments in the African arena, he said the African leaders unanimously elected President Husni Mubarak as chairman of the

OAU's current session, in appreciation of Egypt's role in supporting the causes of the African continent.

He noted that this contributed significantly to Namibia's independence and to the release of Nelson Mandela. Furthermore, he said, Egyptian diplomacy plays a major role in the efforts to achieve a satisfactory solution to the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal as well as to other African problems.

Regarding Egypt's ties with Asian and Latin American countries, 'Abd-al-Majid said Egyptian Foreign policy has exerted substantial efforts to promote these ties within a framework of amity and common interests.

On the Nonaligned Movement, he said that current international developments force the member countries to work for the movement's goals and to benefit from the current atmosphere of international relations. These countries should define priorities so that they are in line with the new situation, such as the issues of debts, development, and environment, as well as the Palestinian cause and the situation in South Africa and Central America. He noted that Egypt has advocated in this respect the need for cooperation among the countries of the South.

He stressed that the foreign policy is designed to serve the country's economic causes and the public's interests. He noted that Egypt's concern with the issues of peace and stability also wants to serve national development.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Egyptian-European relations witnessed a significant improvement last year. He remarked that, while promoting its ties with the European countries, Egypt is at the same time implementing its strategy aspiring close ties with a united Europe in 1992.

Syrian Official Hails Return of League to Cairo

NC1703090690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Syrian People's Assembly and representative of the organization of American parliamentarians of Arab descent at the meetings of the African Parliaments Union, has expressed his pleasure and that of the Syrian people at the return of the Arab League Secretariat to Cairo. He said this decision, in which Syria participated, was normal, put matters right, and enhanced Arab solidarity. It represents, he added, an appreciation and recognition of Egypt's effective role in defending various Arab issues. He asserted that Egypt is the heart of the Arab nation.

Sa'id said the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations and the meeting of the two peoples will serve the Arab world's basic interests, particularly at a time such as this when we need Arab solidarity and a unified stand, and in which small entities are not recognized. He stressed that the meeting of Egypt and Syria constitutes an impregnable wall in the face of all attempts to divide and disunite the Arab nation. This came in an exclusive statement to MENA. [passage omitted]

Syria Said Mediating With Iran Over Prisoners

JN2003144290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Mar 90 pp 1, 25

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has learned from Egyptian diplomatic sources that Cairo has received encouraging response from Tehran to settle the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran after 20 Egyptian]suspects were released last week. The sources said Tehran's response was conveyed via Syria and Cairo is studying the Iranian proposal in light of its influence on Egyptian-Iraqi relations.

Meanwhile, Cairo has affirmed to the Iraqi political leadership its adherence to the good and growing ties with Baghdad within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council. Through diplomatic contacts with Baghdad, Cairo also pointed out that settlement of the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran will not be achieved at the expense of Egyptian-Iraqi relations and that the establishment of Egyptian-Iranian ties is connected to a comprehensive and final settlement of the Iraq-Iran war.

Manpower Minister, Syrian Labor Minister Confer

NC1403070490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA)—'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq Salih, minister of manpower and training, and Haydar Buzu, Syrian minister of social affairs and labor who is currently visiting Cairo, met at the Manpower Ministry this evening. The talks dealt with bolstering technical cooperation between the two ministries, particularly in development and planning, and promoting human resources since the human factor plays an effective and basic role in economic and social development. An agreement was reached on technical delegations visiting both countries to strengthen and expand cooperation.

Buzu thanked the Egyptian Government for the great efforts exerted to prepare for and host the Arab labor conference, which contributed to its success, and for the hospitality accorded the Syrian delegation. During the talks, the Egyptian and Syrian delegations expressed their deep historic relations that link the Egyptians and Syrians and the importance of strengthening these ties of amity, fraternity, and cooperation which benefit both peoples. The Syrian minister is extending his visit until Thursday, even though he was scheduled to leave Cairo after the Arab labor conference yesterday.

Labor Legislation Agreement

JN1703180490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Mar 90 p 10

[By Haytham Sa'd al-Din]

[Text] Egypt and Syria have agreed to unify labor legislation to expand the umbrella of social insurance so that workers of the two countries can benefit from the social insurance for occupational accidents; expand the umbrella of occupational hazards; strengthen technical cooperation in planning, improving, and protecting the workforce; and benefit from Egyptian industrial health and safety legislation.

This emerged during talks yesterday between 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, minister of manpower and training, and Haydar Buzu, Syrian minister of social affairs.

'Abd-al-Haq said that Syria is open to all Arab citizens and does not require an entry visa. He also said that any Arab citizen who can find a job will be issued with a work permit free of charge.

The Syrian minister said that it had been decided to begin cooperation between the two countries to benefit from the expertise of Egyptian workers in fields for which there is demand, such as tourism, agriculture, handicrafts, textiles, ceramics, and glass. He also said that there are 12,000 Egyptian workers in Syria who enjoy all the rights enjoyed by the Syrian citizen.

He said that the return of the Arab League headquarters to Egypt will set things in their proper context, because Cairo is the lighthouse of science and culture for the Arab peoples.

Workers Compensation Accord Signed With Libya

NC1903210290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Today Egypt and Libya agreed on settling payments due Egyptian workers who left Libya in 1985. The Libyans agreed to pay six million dollars as a first installment toward paying the workers' dues.

An agreement about this was signed in Cairo today at the conclusion of the Egyptian-Libyan technical committee meetings. 'Abd-al-Rahmand Khidr, secretary general of the Egyptian Trade Unions Federation, and Salim Jallud, acting chairman of the General Congress of the Producers Federation, cochaired the committee's meetings. [passage omitted]

Libyan Industry Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2003154890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. Fathi Hamad Ibn-Shatwan, secretary of the General People's Committee for Strategic Industries in Libya, arrived in Cairo today for a visit of several days. He will meet with Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab to discuss bilateral cooperation in various spheres. They will also discuss technical assistance that Egypt will give Libya to build a steel complex there.

Further on Visit of Arab League's Ibrahimi

Received by 'Abd-al-Majid

NC2003142690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, who is visiting Cairo. The Algerian ambassador to Cairo and Assistant Foreign Minister Sami Haybah also attended the meeting.

Lakhdar Ibrahimi stated that during the meeting they discussed the situation in Lebanon. He said he had briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the results which the Arab good offices mission has so far achieved on this issue. He also briefed him on the difficult obstacles which the Arab tripartite committee is facing. The committee was formed by a resolution of the Casablanca Arab summit and charged with the task of settling the Lebanese crisis. The Arab countries committed themselves by that resolution to help end Lebanon's ordeal.

Ibrahimi added that as a major Arab country, Egypt can contribute to this Arab effort. He noted that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid had asserted Egypt's willingness to play such a role.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Talks

NC2003155890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, announced today that Egypt is closely following the Israeli Government's crisis, saying that Egypt considers this an internal crisis. Nevertheless, he added, it is important because its outcome will determine the course of peace. He noted that for this reason, Egypt repeatedly emphasizes that peace will serve the interests of Israel and all other concerned parties. He said he hopes the crisis will drive the peace process forward, and not stop it.

Concerning Lebanon, his excellency said Egypt hopes that internecine fighting will stop there and that all concerned parties' efforts will be devoted to establishing Lebanese sovereignty and the legitimate government's supremacy. He noted that Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant Arab League secretary general, has briefed him on Lebanese developments and his analysis of the tripartite committee's efforts. 'Abd-al-Majid added that they agreed that Egypt will maintain conctact with the tripartite committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Italy To Provide $150 Million for 'Immediate Use'

JN2003165490 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Italy has decided to place $150 million at Egypt's disposal for immediate use on projects it needs. It also reaffirmed its support for Egypt to international financial institutions, since Egypt is the cornerstone of

the Middle East and the entire Arab world. It also voiced support for Egypt's efforts to establish peace and stability in the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East regions

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said in a news conference after concluding his talks in Egypt that the EEC has assigned $15 billion to developing countries in the Mediterranean region, Egypt being among them. It has also decided to set up a regional bank for developing the Red Sea basin countries. [passage omitted]

Austrian Defense Minister Arrives 17 Mar

NC1703204990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—Austrian Minister for National Defense Robert Lichal and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening on a weeklong visit.

Upon arrival, he stated that his visit will try to consolidate bilateral relations. He added that he will hold consultations with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production.

The Austrian minister was received by Major General Mahmud Zaki, commander of the central military zone.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Sweden

NC1803132390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub left Cairo for Stockholm this afternoon at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a five-day visit to Sweden at the invitation of the Swedish Parliament's speaker. [passage omitted]

Sudan

BBC Notes Fresh 'Artillery Fire' in Juba

AB1903222590 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 19 Mar :0

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] After a break of just a few weeks, the southern Sudanese capital, Juba, has again come under long-range artillery fire. Earlier this month, the authorities in Juba said the shelling had stopped and that the Sudanese Army was taking steps to stop the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] rebels doing it again. But now all that changed and the rebel bombardment has brought the recently resumed food airlift to a standstill. (Peter Betunis) is in Juba, he telexed us this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Juba was subjected to heavy SPLA bombardment for the third time in a year at mid-morning last Friday. The rockets that came from the eastern bank of the River Nile were apparently directed toward the airport, but fell short by about 800 meters from the main terminal of the runway. They, however, hit one of the most populated residential areas in Juba, (High Gabat). One of the artillery shells hit a feeding center for children. I visited the scene immediately afterward. Two men were torn apart by the fragments of the shells and they died on the spot. A third man was trapped and burned by the blazing flames in a hut. Two children were blown up in the feeding center and died immediately afterward, bring the total number of dead to five. Six others, including a pregnant mother and four children, were wounded, some seriously. A leper in the feeding center escaped unhurt miraculously as a shell landed two meters away from him shattering in pieces the chair on which he was sitting. Twelve huts were also set alight with all of the property in them burned.

Offices were closed in a rush as government employees took to their heels for the nearest cover. Children sitting for a primary leaving examination at school ran in disarray as the town shook with the resounding sound of artillery gunfire explosions. Afternoon flights to Juba, including the relief plane from Nairobi, were suspended for the day. [end recording]

Armed Forces Reportedly Capture Rumbek

EA2003164890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 March (SUNA)—Yesterday evening, the Armed Forces code-named "Sayf al-Majd" [swords of glory] entered the town of Rumbek in Upper Nile after crushing all resistance and enemy pockets. The outlaws' losses numbered 335 dead, while the Armed Forces lost 19 martyrs. A statement from the Armed Forces General Command issued here today added that the routed enemy remnants were seen collecting the dead and hundreds of wounded.

The statement also said that the Armed Forces code-named "Wafa al-Rijal" [the loyalty of men] succeeded yesterday in attacking by surprise the routed remnants of the enemy all along the Juba-Lanya-Limbe-Yei axis and entered the indomitable town of Yei after clearing and scattering the agents from the town. The Juba-(?Yei) axis was secured. The statement added the Armed Forces continued to chase and engage the outlaws in the operational area to cleanse our good land from the filth of the agents and the outlaws, who fled across the Ugandan border.

The statement called on the outlaws to remind them that the amnesty law was still in force, pointing out that all military commands in all zones had been directed to treat well all those who surrendered. The statement stressed that a decent life would be provided for them.

'Heavy' Casualties Reported

EA2003171590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The enemy convoy code-named al-Sayf al-Majid [illustrious sword] moving from Wau to Rumbek fell into a deliberate ambush laid by [word indistinct] forces at (?Khawr Gel Liet), 3 miles from Rumbek on 15 March

1990. The enemy suffered heavy casualties in men and materiel. Fifty-three enemy soldiers were killed and more than 120 others wounded. Three tanks and 12 trucks were destroyed. Two anti-aircraft machine-guns and other light weapons were also destroyed.

The fighting started at 1600 and lasted three hours, and continued again on the morning of 16 March 1990, from 0500 to 0700. The so-called al-Sayf al-Majid convoy left Wau composed of about 1,500 soldiers reinforced with tanks and other heavy artillery with the mission to reach Wau. The convoy is under the command of Colonel Kakum and Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah, his deputy. Forty percent of the so-called al-Sayf al-Majid convoy has been destroyed and the convoy is completely incapacitated and is no longer a fighting force. Along with the force inside Rumbek town, they will be destroyed.

The battle for the destruction of the so-called al-Sayf al-Majid started on the night of 23 February 1990, when the convoy was raided by SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] patrol force two miles from Wau. The same day, one enemy (?truck) detonated a landmine, killing ten soldiers and 21 others wounded. The enemy was forced to retreat to (Zara).

On 25 February 1990, the convoy fell into a deliberate ambush at (Panameth), 12 miles from Wau. Fifty-four enemy soldiers were killed and 70 wounded. Sixty of the enemy soldiers fled the battle and went back to (Zara) where they are under arrest. Five trucks were destroyed during the fighting.

On 10 March 1990, in their futile attempt to advance, the enemy fell into another deliberate SPLA ambush at (?Makuei), five miles from Tonj. In the battle that lasted from 1300 to 1700 hours, 25 enemy soldiers were killed and 63 others wounded. Seven trucks were destroyed.

After this series of losses inflicted on the convoy, the so-called al-Sayf al-Majid convoy is completely incapacitated and is no longer a fighting force.

The chairman and commander in chief SPLM/SPLA, [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has sent thousands of congratulations to Commander Daniel Aweit Akuot, officers, NCO's, and men of Bahr al-Ghazal Administrative Area and Lakes Zonal Command for their great victory over the so-called al-Sayf al-Majid in the many battles over the last 30 days.

UK, UN Officials Briefed on Food Situation

EA1903200090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Brigadier Pio Yukwan, National Salvation Revolution Command Council member and supervisor general of the Southern Council, has briefed the British ambassador to the Sudan and Mr. Priestly, the UN Development Program [UNDP] permanent representative in Khartoum, on the results of his visit to the Upper Nile region and the supply and food situation, and on the efforts to achieve peace. This came during his meeting with them in Khartoum today. Those at the meeting discussed the question of providing seeds in the northern area of Upper Nile region and the other secure areas in the south.

SPLA Protests Halt of Operation Lifeline

EA2003203690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] We now read you an SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] protest statement on Operation Lifeline Sudan. Date: 18 March 1990:

1) On November 3, 1989, the junta of 'Umar al-Bashir ordered a halt to Operation Lifeline Sudan, OLF, accusing the UN of smuggling arms and other war materials to the SPLA. This absurd accusation had no foundation whatsoever, but was a ploy by the fundamentalists in Khartoum to twist the arms of the UN officials working with OLF. Public denunciations of such an affront to the UN were muted. Only the SPLM/SPLA put its point of view across loud and clear, that the Khartoum government was bent on blackmail pure and simple, and in so doing, the junta has only the sky as a limit to what it can use as a blackmail

2) Four full months passed without the UN being able to dissuade the junta from the folly of its action of denying much-needed relief to the suffering people in Sudan.

3) In early March, the special representative of UN's secretary general in Sudan met representatives of the SPLM/SPLA to brief the movement on the situation so far, and to inform it that the junta has agreed at long last to the resumption of Operation Lifeline Sudan phase two. The special representative of the UN's secretary general in Sudan presented to the delegation of the movement the figures suggested by Khartoum on the apportionment of aid.

4) Whereas the SPLM/SPLA delegates expressed the agreement of the movement in principle to the commencement of UN Operation Lifeline Sudan, they took strong exception to the figures on the apportionment of aid suggested by the Khartoum government. This and the details on how the program will be implemented were to be finalized in another meeting.

5) For this purpose, the special representative of the UN secretary general in Sudan, Mr. Michael Priestly, held a series of meetings with SPLM/SPLA representatives to Addis Ababa on 16, 17 and 18 Instant [March] to work out the final details of the commencement of OLF Phase Two.

6) It was regrettably absurd that the UN representative was not ready to discuss the figures suggested by the junta, and that they should be taken as they are. This is the more surprising when the UN representative himself admits that such figures are based on no objective criterion. The SPLM/SPLA side was more than willing,

and still is ready, to discuss these figures and arrive at some reasonable compromise, so that the operation can start without delay.

7) To elucidate our point, it is important here to enter into some detailed analysis. The figures suggested by the junta or the apportionment of relief for phase two are the following wing: Government of Sudan: 76,000 metric tonnes; 26,000 metric tonnes for Khartoum's displaced; SPLA 16,000 metric tonnes; reserve: 12,000 metric tonnes. These figures are not supported by any data on the number of displaced or the actual needs. By all accounts, the displaced population are more on the SPLA side than on the government. What on earth can justify these arbitrary figures?

8) Let us look at the UN data. The UN total food estimates show that the total needs for GOS [Government of Sudan]-held areas is 42,810 metric tonnes, and for the SPLA- administered areas (?served) from the southern operation is 46,427 metric tonnes. Furthermore, there is actually in Sudan now a total of 72,250 metric tonnes, an excess of 29,440 metric tonnes over and above the needs assessed by the UN. Despite these glaring facts, the UN representative wants to push down our throat unpalatable filth supplied by the junta in Khartoum. Such a position raises eyebrows.

9) It is observed that the leadership of OLF had, since October last year, been persistently following a one-sided pro-junta line as exemplified by the following, just to mention a few:

a) Following the junta's stoppage of flights on 3 November 1989, the OLF staff in Nairobi have been exerting pressure and issuing threats to all the NGO's [non-governmental organizations] who chose to continue delivering relief to the needy population on the frivolous excuse that this will jeopardize their talks with the GOS. Imagine what disaster could have befallen the hungry Sudanese in the last four months if the NGO's were to succumb to the pressure of these UN officials. This attitude should be condemned, as it is in the same vein as the junta's starvation policy.

b) The OLF officials have been secretly planning for a conference to be held in Khartoum on 26 instant, to work out a plan of action for OLF, keeping the SPLM/SPLA completely in darkness. This is in anticipation of our rightful demand that we should fully participate in the conference to put our point of view across, and so that the plan of action is a final document blessed by all sides. This position was made clear to Mr. Michael Priestly in Nairobi last October. For such a conference to be meaningful, it must be held outside Sudan, so that the SPLM/SPLA can contribute.

c) The intransigence of the OLF staff, that the government's figures, which they admit have no bearing to reality, should not be discussed and the SPLM/SPLA has nothing, but to take these figures as they are.

10) When the Operation Lifeline Sudan started in March 1989, under Mr. James P Grant, it was unquestionable neutrality of the UN, as seen by both sides, that did most for the operation to become a reality. It is our sincere hope that such a stand should be restored. It is the only way we can go forward in carrying out our humanitarian obligation of reaching relief to those who need it, and in time.

11) The SPLM/SPLA wishes to reaffirm its full commitment to Operation Lifeline Sudan on the basis of partnership between the UN, SPLM/SPLA and the Government of Sudan. Any attempt to ignore or [word indistinct] any party to the agreement can only harm the noble objective we have set ourselves to achieve.

12) In conclusion, the SPLM/SPLA reiterates its readiness to discuss the apportionment of relief to arrive at logical figures so that Operation Lifeline Sudan can be saved before the rains set in. All pressures should be brought to bear so that (?reason prevails).

Signed: SPLM/SPLA Task Force on Emergency Relief

Papers Continue Anti-British Campaign

JN1803151090 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 18, INA—Iraqi dailies issued today continued denouncing the British-Zionist-inspired propaganda campaign on execution of the Iranian-born British spy journalist Farzad Bazoft. The dailies asserted that carrying out of the execution of a spy was an Iraqi fundamental right to preserve its sovereignty and national independence. The dailies lauded in their editorials the Iraqi legitimate indignation and anger represented in the massive demonstrations of protest, condemning the shameful British stance and denouncing the devious propaganda campaign, fabricated by British and Zionist circles. The dailies added that the Iraqis had resolutely confirmed their absolute rejection of any form of pressure or interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

AL-THAWRAH daily said that the world heard and saw the Iraqis yesterday demonstrating and chanting slogans to express their rally with their brave leadership, voicing support to its decisions and measures aimed at protecting their national security and its brave confrontation of all imperialist and Zionist intrigues and conspiracies aiming at encroaching Iraq's sovereignty, reputation and international status. The paper further added that Iraqis had informed their clear-cut message to the British premier "implementation of the decisions of our constitutional and legal institution is a fundamental right for preserving our sovereignty and national independence, and complies with all international charters and norms". [sentence as received]

The paper referred that the Iraqi people had embodied during their anger demonstrations and slogans, their close rally around President Saddam Husayn, and disclosed their profound national awareness of the reality of the trumped-up and deliberate propaganda and its sinister purposes, as being a flagrant and insolent interference in Iraq's internal affairs. The propaganda had showed the errors perpetrated by the British Government and its measures which it should alone shoulder their responsibility and outcomes.

The paper also referred to the sounds of condemnation and denunciation released by Arab and world political and media circles in common with Iraq in confronting the well-designed campaign for applying Iraq's valid laws against the spy Bazoft. The paper said that this coincidence could speed up foiling this wrong campaign and keep silent all those who race to release sinister accusations and claims.

The paper confirmed that the British campaign against Iraq, was not but new link in a series of media and psychological campaigns usually fabricated by the Zionist circles with a view to undermining Iraq's historical victory in addition to distracting the attention from the Zionist bestial crimes and oppressive practices against the Palestinian surging uprising inside occupied Palestine. The paper stressed that Iraq, confronting the eight-year aggression and maintaining its sovereignty, is now capable of defeating all schemes woven by the hostile circles.

Meanwhile AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said in its editorial that Iraqis yesterday took to streets all over Iraq, expressing their rage over the British dubious stance and voicing their stiff denunciation against the British Government's open behaviours and measures against Iraq by executing the Iranian-born British spy journalist Farzad Bazoft. The paper elaborated that the Iraqis and Arabs had voiced their full rejection of the British stand, expressing their support to a decision on executing Bazoft and declaring preparedness to defend their land and sublime principles. The paper added that the execution of Bazoft was consistent with the Iraqi natural right in preserving its national security and applying its valid laws on those who found guilty and red-handed. [sentence as received] The paper stressed that the Iraqi decision was a conclusive evidence on Iraqi people and leadership's commitment to these legitimate rights, deriding those who claimed they have rights to do whatever they wish. The paper concluded by saying that Iraq would remain strong and capable of defeating all plots and schemes hatched by the enemies and would belittle the British measures and feverish campaign plotted by all hostile circles, confirming that Iraq would never yield to any form of pressure and extortion in any field and it has been sticking to its national rights without hesitation.

AL-'IRAQ daily had derided in its editorial the feverish campaign launched by the British Government against Iraq, stressing that Britain would gain nothing but defeat and bitterness. The paper added that the Iraqi rage against Britain for its sinister campaign had confirmed full backing to Iraq's independent approach. The paper drew the attention on Iraqi principled and firm stances pursued in the international policy, based on the issue of sovereignty and independence in all their practices and their assertion that the national dignity is above other considerations. The daily warned against consequences of attempts aiming at undermining Iraq's sovereignty, asserting that Iraq is capable more than any time before of defeating and foiling all plots and schmes whatever the party would be behind them.

The BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper said that in the midst of a British media hype, a mass-circulation British paper said there is "a thin line" between spying and investigative reporting which, according to the paper, the Iraqi Government seems to have failed to notice". Judging by this argument it would be no wonder to conclude that the British prestige in journalism is a thing of the past, just as their diplomacy is. There can hardly be any such subtle different between investigative reporting and espionage as to leave any confusion between the two, it is just the difference between chalk and cheese. Journalists, no doubt, are entitled to write whatever they like, whether in agreement with the host party or not. They can gather as much information as

they like and finally give their dictum, whether favourable or not. Numerous have been the occasions when journalists invited to Iraq, receive facilities and hospitality unavailable to journalists visiting Western countries including Britain. Upon returning, they write articles which in the eyes of Iraqis are biased and unobjective and sometimes absolutely hostile, such reports have prompted no reprisals on the part of the Iraqi Government.

Bazoft however, was busy taking photographs of minute details of an unexploded shell, its origin, calibre, capacity...etc, while others were carrying out their normal journalistic duties to finally write whatever they say in accordance with journalistic integrity. Bazoft, however, was allowed to do whatever he liked unchallenged although he was obviously up to no good. But the last visit was the straw that broke the camel's back. Bazoft seemed to have rushed into a site where angels fear to tread. He made an unauthorized visit to highly sensitive area clearly declared "restricted", carrying out activities that can by no means be viewed relevant to his duties as a journalist. He drew a sketch of the location of the military installations, collected samples of the soil and took photographs of the installations. If it were his intention to write a report, he would have approached the site in the first place only after securing permission. Had he been after a report for his paper, a notebook would have sufficed.

It is so popular in Britain to see a sign reading "No Trespassing" or "Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted." These alarming signs in Britain are often intended to protect the lawn of a private property, a school garden or to check the rife vandalism of the British "civilized" hooligans. A "private property" sign is enough to make any trespasser liable to prosecution. Why on earth should Bazoft be secluded from prosecution when he is caught redhanded with all the evidence that labels him a spy? The place where he was caught was not a school garden or a British mansion's vicinity. It was a military installation in a country that has until recently been engaged in a war, the longest of the century.

Bazoft had a fair trial, at which he had access to a lawyer and British consular advice, and the trial was attended by a representative of the British Embassy. Bazoft was found guilty of espionage, a crime which by the Iraqi law carries the death sentence.

Arab Groups Denounce UK Over Bazoft Case

JN1903134390 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Capitals, Mar 19, INA—Arab organizations, top figures and mass media have denounced Britain's propaganda fabricated against Iraq over execution of Iranian spy Farzad Bazoft, with a British travel document, involved in espionage for British and Zionist quarters. In press statements released on this affair, they considered the British Government campaign to be a cheap response, obvious extortion and courtesy with the European-based Zionist forces. They said this move represented an old Zionist colonialist scheme drawn against Iraq, the Arab countries and their legitimate aspirations, after all plots, aimed at disrupting the Arab nation, had failed.

Arab Geologist Federation Secretary General Sami Sharif stated that the campaign had shown the degree of hatred against the Arab nation and specifically Iraq after the latter defeated the Iranian aggression. He called on Arab bodies to firmly counter this suspicious moves and unveil Zionist entity's agents in Britain.

Secretary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id denounced the British cry on Bazoft's execution. In statements to INA, Sa'id said Bazoft's execution came in line with the international law, stressing that Britian should respect sovereignty of other countries and deal with Iraq on the basis of joint interests.

Arab Farmers Federation General Secretary Khalil Ibrahim condemned the British Government's flagrant stance, underlining that such a move represented a direct harm to Arab-British relations, and to Iraq-British ties in particular. He added that the matter constituted a clear intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs, calling on Arab and international agencies to side with Iraq in repulsing the awful conspiracy carried out by Britain in collaboration with the Zionism.

Kuwait's trade unionists lashed out at the British Government's interference in Iraq's affairs. In a telegram sent to Iraq's Trade Unions General Federation, Kuwaiti Unionists Chief 'Ali al-Kundari said Iraq had dealt with Bazoft in the light of the international law and his legitimate right in defending his national security. He renewed, in the name of Kuwaiti trade unionists, backing up Iraq against all hostile attempts aimed at his soil.

Iraq-based General Federation of Palestine Trade Unions denounced the British attitude. In a statement released here today, the federation said Britain's stand represented an outspoken intervention in Iraq's internal affairs in addition to being grounded on false pretexts against a just decision passed by a court against a spy, whose sound confession condemned him and at the attendance of the British consul in Baghdad. [sentence as received] The communique went on, saying that Britain's enmity to the Arab was well known across the history, for it was Britain itself that planted the Zionist entity in the core of the Arab nation and provided it with all powerful instruments to kill and displace the Palestinian people of the occupied Arab territories. The statement urged Arab and world organizations to take firm stances against the British drive, backed by the Zionist colonialist circles.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party's Political Bureau condemned the British feverish campaign. In letters sent to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Federal

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President Francois Mitterrand, the Islamic Conference Organization, and Nonaligned Movement, the party made emphasis on Iraq's legitimate rights in defending his sovereignty and people against foreigners in the light of a just decision and on the basis of the international law. The bureau called on the said parties to side with Iraq who is exercising a national right.

Iraqis in Bahrain Denounce UK 'Hostile' Position

JN1903131890 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Manama, Mar 19, INA—Iraqi nationals residing in Bahrain denounced the British stand hostile to Iraq owing to executing the Iranian-born British spy journalist Farzad Bazoft. The Iraqi community here said that the British intervention attempts in Iraq's internal affairs, were in line with Britain's dream aimed at belittling Iraqi and Arab rights. The nationals expressed preparedness for exerting their utmost to defend Iraq and foil all sinister schemes inimical to sovereignty, national security and interests.

ACC Cable to Saddam Denounces UK 'Campaign'

JN2003130490 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 20, INA—President Saddam Husayn has received a telegram from the General Secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), denouncing the British media campaign hostile to Iraq following the execution of the Iranian-born British spy Farzad Bazoft. In its cable, the ACC Secretariat said that Iraq had exercised its legal and legitimate right in protecting security and deterring spies, who tried to violate its laws. The secretariat added that the British and Zionist circles had invented this issue with a view to instigating the world against the Iraqi people.

Saddam Chairs Second Meeting on Constitution

JN2003121390 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 20, INA—President Saddam Husayn today presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Regional Leadership. Forty articles of the second and third chapters of the new draft constitution were reviewed during the four-hour meeting. President Husayn had chaired yesterday a joint meeting of the RCC and the party, during which twenty-six articles of the first and second chapters of the draft constitution were discussed.

Ramadan Receives Moroccan Legislator, Delegation

JN2003175290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received this evening Ahmed Osman, president of the Moroccan Chamber of Representatives, and his delegation currently visiting the country at the invitation of the National Assembly.

During the meeting they discussed and exchanged viewpoints on a number of pan-Arab and international issues. In addition, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them after launching the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union as a developed step toward joint Arab action. The meeting was attended by the Moroccan ambassador in Baghdad.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives From Tehran

JN2103111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG], arrived in Baghdad today from Tehran. Jovic's visit is within the framework of his shuttle tours between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the work of the UN observers in Iraq and Iran.

President Chooses Peres To Form New Government

Explains Choice

TA2003212390 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1922 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Statement by President Hayim Herzog at the presidential residence in Jerusalem, announcing the selection of Knesset member Shim'on Peres as candidate for prime minister]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In consolidating my opinion on selecting the Knesset member whom I would at this time entrust with the job of forming the new Cabinet, I held—in accordance with the law—consultations with the Knesset factions. In these, the authorized representatives of the factions recommended I impose the job on one of the two candidates of the large parties. The tally of votes indicated the two candidates who were recommended seemed to have garnered the exact number of Knesset votes; namely, 60 votes each. I was consequently confronted with a tie. In that state of affairs, there was no choice but to resort to other tests before making my decision. In deliberations with the representatives of the factions, I was made aware of several options: one, new elections. This option, although it lies outside my jurisdiction, did not win broad support among the factions. The opposite is true: Only a small fraction happily greeted that solution. It consequently was obvious this solution would not win a Knesset majority, and certainly would not lead us to a speedy formation of a stable government that could function as necessary.

The other option mentioned was to again form a government based on the two major blocs. Through consultations I understood beyond a shadow of a doubt that that solution, which was correct and good under the previous circumstances, will not succeed again, as neither of the large parties is inclined to enter into such a framework unless they head that government. Furthermore, the representatives of some of the factions emphasized the downfall of the government last week constitutes clear proof there is no room for the government known as the national unity government to continue to exist. That left the third option: the establishment of a government headed by one of the largest parties. As I said before, it seemed as though, from the mathematical point of view, the tally was even.

At this point I must note that, faced with a tie, I found it impossible to ignore the consideration regarding the largest party in the Knesset, which, according to the Knesset regulations, currently is the Labor Party. However, not just arithmetic guided me. In the democratic parliamentary system and according to our legal system, the parliamentary arena constitutes a stage for different approaches and world views to contend with each other. Sometimes one gains the upper hand, at other times the other wins. I also considered the supreme test of the majority vote. In the case at hand, last week no confidence was expressed in the government that espoused a certain way. Simple logic would require giving a chance to a path other than the one that was defeated and resulted in the downfall of a government. As is the common practice in democratic regimes, the party that led the drive to topple the government is entitled to be given the opportunity to present the Knesset with its way and seek its vote of confidence.

In considering these things, I must say I got the firm impression that even though some of the factions did not recommend giving the job to the Labor Party candidate, it was not because they disqualified the party's candidate, but because they preferred the Likud's candidate over him.

Having heard the representatives of the factions that came to me and following additional clarifications, I asked myself the central question: Who has the best chance of forming a new government in the shortest time possible? I discovered, in the course of the consultations and clarifications that I held, that Knesset member [MK] Shim'on Peres stands the most reasonable and best chance of winning majority support in the Knesset. That, naturally, was the prime consideration I was obligated to take into account. That was the consideration that served as my guideline before and which has each time won the Knesset's approval.

I therefore reached the conclusion I must impose the job of forming the government on the Labor Party's candidate, MK Shim'on Peres, who also is the head of the largest Knesset faction.

About an hour ago, after MK Peres responded favorably to my offer and expressed his readiness to assume the job, I entrusted him—according to the law—with the job of forming the new government. I wish MK Peres success in the mission he undertook and express my hope that although the law grants him 21 days to accomplish the mission of forming the new government, he will complete the job before then for the benefit of the people and the nation.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 2030 GMT on 20 March points out that since the 21-day period ends on 10 April, the first day of the Jewish holiday of Passover, that initial period will end either a day before or a day after the holiday] [passage omitted]

Peres To Invite Likud To Join

TA2003203790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1951 GMT 20 Mar 90

[News conference by Prime Minister-Designate Shim'on Peres at the presidential residence in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Political correspondent Yig'al Goren] Mr. Peres, the question that everyone must be asking you now is: How do you view your chances of forming a new government in Israel?

[Peres] I think the chances are reasonable.

[Goren] Do the religious parties, some of which supported Mr. Shamir as the candidate for prime minister, appear to you to be potential partners in the new government?

[Peres] Certainly. Let me remind you I already have served as prime minister before.

[Goren] Do you believe you will be able to form a government within the period of time you have allotted yourself, that is, in 10 days?

[Peres] I will try. It is very hard to guess. We already have seen in the past few weeks that many surprises can crop up along the way. I, of course, cannot anticipate all these surprises, but we will try to do that as fast as possible. I know the public's desire—as echoed by the president—stresses the need to make a supreme effort.

[Goren] Many people ask how it is possible to unite, under one roof, religious parties, some of which may not be Zionist, and other parties that hold very leftist views. Will this be an obstacle?

[Peres] No. I do not think we can overcome all the differences between the parties, but we can create a common denominator. That, or what I see as the foundations for this Cabinet, will be made up of four elements: the peace process, over which there is a rather broad agreement; preserving security interests, over which there also is broad agreement; sustaining the immigration impetus and absorbing the immigrants into Israel—here, too, there is a very broad consensus; and fourth, healing the economy. In other words, these are four components uniting many strata of the people.

I have had the opportunity to work in each of these areas. I am convinced the people want to rally around the common elements and put the divisive elements off for another opportunity.

[Goren] Mr. Peres, everyone undoubtedly asks you what, in fact, is your personal impression of this lengthy and protracted process, which left such a bitter taste among the public?

[Peres] There is no doubt in my mind we must change the election process, as the system affects the people as well. I think there are a lot of political figures who wanted things to end differently. To a certain extent, they are the victims of the system more than they are the fathers of that system.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, how long do you think it will take you to form the government?

[Peres] I am not prepared to make a prophecy. I only can say I will try to do that as fast as possible.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is the Likud a likely candidate for partnership in the Cabinet?

[Peres] I definitely will invite the Likud, and we will begin negotiations with Agudat Yisra'el, which was a very close and responsible partner in our eyes. I will meet with its leaders this evening to start the negotiations. I certainly will approach the Likud. After all, they sat in the government together with us.

[Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] Mr. Peres, was the national unity government—and there already have been two in Israel—a bad experience for the country, and do you rule out such an option now?

[Peres] There were certain things at which the unity government succeeded. I recall the two years during which I had the honor of serving as prime minister in a national unity government. We definitely got out of the inflationary situation with flying colors, as no other nation did. We also got out of the war in Lebanon. Even those who, at the time, opposed our departure from Lebanon now no longer regret it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are there additional factions, beyond those who originally supported you, that now will join the coalition, seeing that you have been given the job of forming the Cabinet?

[Peres] We will check and see.

Shamir Rejects Peres' Offer

TA2103082990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has just reported Shim'on Peres called on Yitzhaq Shamir a short time ago and proposed he join the negotiations on the establishment of a broad unity government. Shamir replied the Likud would not join a government led by the Alignment. Peres asked him whether this was his final word, Shamir replied affirmatively, and the two men parted.

Likud Sees Peres' Failure

TA2003212990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud's ministerial team for coalition negotiations will meet tomorrow morning for consultations. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz. A communique issued by Prime Minister Shamir's bureau states that the efforts to establish a Likud-led government will continue after Shim'on Peres' most probable failure.

Further Reaction to Decision

TA2003222790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 20 mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Justice Minister Dan Meridor has told the Voice of Israel he respects Mr. Herzog's decision. It is his authority, and his decision is binding.

Minister Zvulun Hammer said the National Religious Party's [NRP's] institutions will have to meet to decide what to do. He assumes the NRP will discuss the situation tomorrow. He pointed out he prefers a national unity government.

Knesset Member [MK] Gafni of Degel Hatora said the issue will be discussed with Rabbi Schach, and his men will follow the rabbi's ruling.

Ya'ir Levi of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] said Shim'on Peres must be allowed to talk to whomever he chooses.

Here are some other reactions: MK Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] expressed satisfaction with the president's decision. He said his party will lend its hand to speedy negotiations toward the establishment of a government of peace and social justice.

MK Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement expressed satisfaction with the president's choice. He believes it is possible to bridge the gaps between his party and the religious parties.

Tehiya Chairman Yuval Ne'eman said if Peres succeeds in forming a government, it will be the first government in Israel's history that will depend, for each step it makes, on a decree from the USSR and the PLO in Tunis.

MK Amnon Rubinstein of Shinuy said he was not surprised by the president's decision. He believes the government-formation process will not be an easy job.

MK Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet expressed the fear a narrow government led by Mr. Peres will be set up and that government will take irreversible steps.

Labor Launches Support Drive

TA2103071790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 90 pp A1, 4

[By Ilan Shehori, 'Aqiva Eldar, Dan Margalit, and Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres is striving to form a new government as soon as next week. Top party echelons intend to form the government next week at any cost, even if this requires the establishment of a minority government. [passage omitted]

Peres aims to make up a government leaning on a coalition of 67 Knesset members [MK's] from the Alignment, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], Agudat Yisra'el, the NRP [National Religious Party], MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, Degel Hatora, and MK Charlie Biton. During talks with the five Arab MK's and with HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Peres was promised their vote of confidence when the government is presented to the Knesset, but not their future support. Together with them, Peres hopes his government will round up the support of 72 MK's. [passage omitted]

At midnight last night, the Labor Party negotiating team launched official negotiations with Agudat Yisra'el on the terms of the Aguda's joining a government led by Shim'on Peres. Agudat Yisra'el requested the construction and housing and the labor and social affairs portfolios, parity of conditions for yeshiva students, an allotment of apartments for rent, and the curbing of licentious publications. The decision to honor Agudat Yisra'el by opening coalition negotiations with it was a token of the Alignment's appreciation for Agudat Yisra'el's adherence to its promise to support Peres. The negotiating team includes, among others, Yitzhaq Rabin, Rafi Edri, Mikha Harish, and Yosi Beilin. [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 21 March, in a related report by Orli Azulay-Katz, Bina Barzel, Gabi Brunn, and Dani Kipper on pages 1 and 13, states: "The two sides agreed Agudat Yisra'el will receive the housing and construction and the labor and social affairs portfolios. It has not been agreed yet whether the Aguda also will receive the chairmanship of the Knesset Finance Committee. It was further agreed the Aguda will enjoy freedom of vote on defense and political issues, and that the Council of Torah Sages will decide on Agudat Yisra'el's stands on these issues. The two parties further agreed the status quo on religious matters will be maintained."]

According to preliminary agreements with the other three religious parties, the Labor Party expects them to not vote against Peres when the government is presented, even if coalition negotiations with all parties are not concluded by the beginning of next week—the date Peres wishes to request the Knesset's confidence. If this indeed takes place, he will hold several portfolios available for them. This morning, MK Rafi Edri will approach SHAS and Degel Hatora to find out whether they are willing to join a Peres government at once. The NRP already has asked for the education portfolio and was promised its request will be considered favorably. Even last night, voices were heard in the NRP contending it would be preferable to announce at once that their party will join the Alignment government, rather than do it later under less favorable conditions. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 21 March, in a related report by Amnon Levi and Daniyel Aviv on page 3, adds: "SHAS may join Shim'on Peres' government, thereby creating a national unity government led by Peres." "It has been learned SHAS intends to abstain from conducting public negotiations with the Alignment during the initial stages, and that it will wait for Peres' government to form without it. SHAS will join the process later. This strategy is designed to overcome the harsh controversy between supporters of Arye Der'i and those SHAS members who oppose the Alignment, including MK's Arye Gamli'el and Yosef 'Azran." The report adds "SHAS leader Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef favors joining an Alignment government."]

After last night's announcement that the president is entrusting Shim'on Peres with forming the new government, an internal struggle was launched in the Labor Party when persons identified with the party's hawkish camp announced if Peres attempts to turn his government into a dovish one by including new ministers characterized by "a certain political hue" and through

government guidelines standing in contravention to the Labor Party platform, they will vote against it. [passage omitted]

Bill To Disband Knesset Submitted

TA2103104390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] has submitted a draft bill to disband the Knesset. The NRP argues that now the unity government has been dispersed, a narrow-based government would have a hard time coping with the challenges facing Israel, including immigrant absorbtion, crushing the intifadah, and striving for peace. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that at the moment a majority is emerging in the Knesset against the NRP's draft bill to disband the body.

U.S. Terror Report 'Not Relevant to Reality'

TA2103090490 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 Mar 90

[Text] Jerusalem, 20 Mar (GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE)—GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE Director Dr. Yosi Olmert said today that the U.S. State Department report on PLO involvement in terrorism is not relevant to reality as per data provided by the Israel Government. The PLO continues to be deeply involved in terrorist activity against Israel, both in Israel proper as well as in the administered territories.

Detailed information regarding the extent of PLO terrorist activity is continuously relayed and brought to the attention of the appropriate elements in the U.S. In 1989 alone, the PLO was involved in a considerable number of terrorist attacks and sabotage: 13 attacks by Fatah in pre-1967 Israel; 17 attacks along the border including two Katyusha rocket attacks on kibbutzim in the Jordan Valley; 15 attempts to penetrate the border with the intent of attacking Israeli settlements. Almost 200 Palestinians murdered in the territories at the direct orders of the Unified Leadership of the Uprising which is an organization directed by the PLO in the territories.

It is not important who in the PLO personally gives the orders to use terror. What is important is the fact that these actions are perpetrated by the PLO including its different organizations which claim responsibility for the attacks. As far as Israel is concerned, this is the important issue. The PLO therefore continues to be a terrorist organization. Terrorism is ingrained in its character and serves as the central focus of its activity.

7 Wounded in Qalqilyah; General Strike in Tulkarm

TA2103102190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] A curfew was imposed in Qalqilyah this morning following violent clashes between students and Israeli soldiers. Army sources say one student was wounded by a rubber bullet and six others were wounded by stones. The military government ordered the students home.

A general strike is being observed in Tulkarm today in a gesture of mourning over the death of the child killed in yesterday's riots. Curfews are in effect in Tulkarm's refugee camp and Dhannabah neighborhood.

The 11-day curfew on Bayt Furik near Nabulus was lifted this morning. The Army had been operating in the village to apprehend rioters and suspected terrorists. About 140 people were arrested in the village. An Army unit remains deployed in Bayt Furik [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 21 March reports "Gaza District Police this week apprehended 15 youngsters, members of the popular and strike committees. They confessed to throwing firebombs, writing graffiti, and attacking suspected collaborators."]

Closed House Session To Discuss Corruption Cases

JN1903074290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Mar 90 p 1

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—After a lengthy debate Sunday, the Lower House of Parliament voted in favour of convening a closed session to discuss the outcome of the Finance Committee's preliminary investigations into the Kingdom's debt problem and financial and administrative corruption.

Out of the 63 deputies present, 44 voted in favour of a closed session, to be convened Tuesday as proposed by 12 deputies who are members of the Finance Committee.

The committee's chairman, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, argued strongly in favour of keeping the session closed so as to avoid "libeling" people and obstructing the due process of the law.

He explained that Tuesday's session "will deal with names of people and projects, and declarations about some present or former officials which could be harmful."

Al-Nusur, a former member of the al-Rifa'i cabinet, said keeping the session closed was "necessary to protect people's honour and to avoid sensationalism that could be harmful for and detrimental to the investigation."

He added that Parliament "is not the judiciary and does not issue rulings. We have some facts with details and some with no details... we must start somewhere and we are starting with our preliminary report which will be followed by other reports on corruption and parties responsible for the debt."

The former planning minister said that if Tuesday's session were to be open, the committee would not be able to present all the facts to deputies and would be depriving the discussion from instrumental information.

Justice Minister Yusuf al-Mubayyadin, who is also a deputy from al-Karak, said the session must be closed "because it is in the interest of the investigation to keep things under a lid until cases are ruled upon by the judiciary.

Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi (Irbid) made a strong case against the closed session. He said that after studying interpretations of the article in the Constitution, which allows the holding of such sessions, "it was revealed to me that the House can resort to closed sessions as an exception, only if there was a conviction that making the session public would harm national security or cause military, political, social or economic damage."

Al-Hindawi asserted that "it is clear that discussing the debt, corruption and economic crimes does not fall under these headings."

He argued that as deputies, "we won in the elections because we promised people in our election programmes to reveal all the facts...the people are still suffering, and if we resort to secrecy in this matter, we would be depriving the people of their right to know the truth as revealed to us as a result of our search and deliberations and abandoning a major component of our credibility which we gained from the people."

He dismissed as unreasonable assertions that making the discussions public would influence the judiciary. "The judiciary is impartial and honest and is not supposed to be influenced except by its own conviction and objectivity in looking for the truth. It is only through justice that the innocent are vindicated," he said.

Deputy Salim al-Zu'bi argued that closed sessions "have failed in keeping deliberations within the walls of Parliament." He explained that discussions at the House's two closed sessions earlier this month leaked to the public and were published in some local and foreign newspapers.

"There is more harm in closing the session than opening it to the public," he said. "Such sessions open the way to rumours and the building on rumours which creates an atmosphere of uncertainty among citizens and to negative results."

He also said that it was illogical to ask the House to vote on whether the session should be closed or open when deputies are not aware of the contents of the report.

Deputies Sa'd Haddadin, Faris al-Nabulsi, Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi, Faysal Hamad Ibn Jazi and Husayn Mujalli demanded that the committee provide them with copies of its report before voting on Tuesday's session. But deputies Dhib Marji, 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi and Yusuf al-'Azm said there was no harm in having one closed session then opening the rest of the sessions to discuss the report.

During the vote count it was noticed that all deputies in the Cabinet, most Islamists and members of the Finance Committee voted in favour of a closed session.

Cases Referred to Attorney General

JN2103080890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[By Salamah Ni'mat, Special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday reviewed a preliminary report on financial and administrative corruption in public institutions, and decided to refer nine cases to the attorney general for investigation and possible prosecution, informed sources said.

In the report, submitted by the Houses' Financial Committee during a six-hour closed session, the deputies also reviewed 19 other cases, which required further investigation, said a parliamentary source.

The committee's report was accompanied by "documents and official correspondence on corruption in many local institutions, mainly infrastructure projects, tenders and food supply violations," according to the source.

The source said there was enough information to deem nine of the cases fit for consideration and investigation by the attorney general for possible criminal prosecution.

'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, rapporteur of the Finance Committee, told Jordan Television that the panel's main concern was "to pursue the corrupt and bring those responsible to the proper authority which will rule on these cases very soon."

According to information available to the JORDAN TIMES and sources quoted by REUTERS and the ASSOCIATED PRESS, the cases sent to the attorney general included a sale of Central Bank gold holdings, the Abu-Nusayr housing project, the al-Jubayhah amusement park project, the al-Jafr al-'Azraq road project, the Swayqah prison project, food tenders, and projects of the Jordan Valley Authority.

According to other reports, the House decided to seek more information on at least 19 other cases which involve the supply of a strategic command and control centre, vehicle purchases, the Ma'in spa project, Jordan Television, Radion and Cinema Production Company, the King Talal Dam, barter trade deals with Iraq and Syria, purchase of boats for the Dead Sea, the King 'Abdallah Complex, the Ministry of Supply's accounts in Washington, the Postal Savings Fund, fertiliser and potash projects, Japanese and French loans for telecommunication projects, the Dayr 'Alla pipeline project, expansion work at the cement factory, and "sale" of Jordanian passports.

According to a source quoted by REUTERS, the House committee also wanted an inquiry into Royal Jordanian, and sought government explanations over the take-over in August of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank and a report on what action had been taken since.

The House step to refer the cases to the attorney general was endorsed by 76 votes against four abstentions, according to a source quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

An independent deputy said Finance Committee Chairman 'Abdallah al-Nusur presented "documentation that could help indict some officials provided the information was helpful in an investigation by the judiciary."

He added that one deputy proposed the establishment of an independent investigation panel to follow up on the committee's report and remove many ambiguities clouding most of the cases.

"Overall," the deputy said, "the report was a disappointment. It was below people's expectations and aspirations in terms of not providing enough evidence."

He added that "the most important conclusion we reached is that the committee is very limited in its ability to deal with such an incredible task and that if the executive and judicial branches of government do not cooperate, it will be only a waste of time."

Another deputy said that Islamists in the House "appeared, surprisingly, quite satisfied with the committee's findings." The Christian deputy explained that "considering the high expectations which were built up since the election campaign, it was quite disappointing to hear what we heard today."

"We are all aware of the limitations of the committee—both personal and technical, but the promises that were made were far more than what has been achieved," he added.

The deputy argued that although the committee did not directly implicate names in the report, "it mentioned projects and cases that could easily be linked to certain officials or individuals."

"Most of the information presented did not go much beyond what is known by the man in the street," one source told the JORDAN TIMES. "Some documents were presented but they are hardly enough if not take seriously by the judiciary, he stressed.

Assessing the reaction of the House, the deputy said: "There seemed to be some kind of accommodation among some deputies, giving the impression that the committee's report was satisfactory."

"Deputies who raised hell during the election campaign, promising to put this or that official behind bars, appeard quite domesticated... it looked as if it was some kind of a deal between the Islamists and the committee," he said.

An Islamist deputy said the accusations were "totally groundless and vindictive." He refused to elaborate or to give details about the House's deliberations.

Some of the information provided by the committee "only served to cast doubts about certain projects and persons." the independent deputy said. "it is unfair to expect the committee to do more than that. But the disappointment is inevitable in light of the high expectations that were fuelled by exaggerated pledges by deputies before and after the elections."

"The House's authorities are defined by the Constitution and are limited in their nature to legislation," he said. "It would have been better if the House adopted a more modest, realistic and practical approach so as not to cause such disappointments. It is important for each to know their limitations."

Prime Minister Badran Returns From Sanaa 18 Mar

JN1803183690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, returned home today from Sanaa where he headed the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee.

Upon arrival in Amman, the prime minister told reporters that discussion during the two-day meetings covered extensive talks on implementing cooperation accords between the

two countries. Mr. Badran said the committee signed a new accord on trade and economic cooperation. Mr. Badran also said the accord covers cooperation in fields of power and electricity as well as in education.

Sierra Leone Official Arrives on Visit 19 Mar

JN1903125290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Amman, 19 Mar (PETRA)—Second Vice President Salia Jusu-Sheriff of Sierra Leone arrived in Amman at dawn today on a short visit to Jordan carrying a message to His Majesty King Husayn from the president of Sierra Leone. Jusu-Sheriff will meet with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. He was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Ibrahim Ayyub, minister of transportation and communications, and Munir al-Durrah, secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Meets Hasan, Delivers Message

JN1903210190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] This afternoon at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Higness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Mr. Salia Jusu-Sheriff, second vice president of Sierra Leone. Mr. Jusu-Sheriff gave his highness a message from the president of Sierra Leone to His Majesty King Husayn on bilateral relations.

Hizballah's Musawi: Hostage Crisis Near Solution

NC2003193390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1926 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Hizballah official Husayn Musawi has declared that the issue of Western hostages detained in Lebanon is on its way to a solution. He noted that the hostages will not be detained forever. In a statement to REUTER he said: I do not know who will release them, but I know that the trend is heading toward a solution.

More on Musawi's Remarks

JN2103061690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Husayn Musawi told REUTER from his place of residence in the Lebanese city of Ba'labakk that some progress has been made toward releasing the hostages, but said he did not know when they would be released. He added that any settlement of this issue should be based on meeting some or all the captors' demands. He denied any direct or official contact between Iran and the United States and said Algeria had at a certain time secured mediation between the Western countries and the abductors. Musawi added Washington had pressured Kuwait into releasing some of the 17 Shiites accused of carrying out bomb attacks in Kuwait in 1983.

Chamber of Deputies Holds First Meeting 20 Mar

NC2003111990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies today held the first meeting in its current regular session, which began 15 March. Speaker Husayn al-Husayni opened the meeting at 1115 after a quorum was obtained, 36 deputies being present. The meeting was devoted to the election of parliamentary committees. A second meeting will be held to approve bills regarding the cost of living allowance for public service employees and army personnel and promotions of public security personnel. The promotions are retroactive to 1986.

Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi is attending the parliamentary meetings as a government representative.

Syrians Raid Houses of Hizballah Members

NC2003161690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] According to reports that Voice of Lebanon has received, Syrian Army and intelligence services carried out extensive raids on houses of some Hizballah officials and members in some neighborhoods of Beirut's southern suburb today. The raids extended to some of the suburb's outlying areas in the airport and al-Shiyah vicinity, and they led to security incidents resulting in gunfire. Several individuals were injured. The Hizballah leadership instructed its members to take precautionary measures in some areas.

'Source' Gives Details of Arab League Proposal

JN2003081690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, staff writer]

[Excerpts] Amman—An Arab League mediation panel is proposing that Lebanese renegade General Michel 'Awn evacuate the presidential palace in the Beirut suburb of B'abda in return for a pledge for his personal safety and that an Arab summit will guarantee to meet his demand that the final withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon be moved forward, informed diplomatic sources said Monday.

"This is the message taken to Beirut this time by (Arab League envoy Lakhdar) Ibrahimi," said a source, speaking on condition of anonymity. According to the source, the situation in Lebanon was one of the main topics of discussion between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Saturday night at the remote southeastern Saudi town of Hafr al-Batin during a short visit the Iraqi leader paid to the Kingdom.

"King Fahd voiced appreciation of Iraq's strict adherence to its pledge to halt its supply of arms to 'Awn," said the source. "In addition, the King also asked the Iraqi president to pressure 'Awn to listen with reason to the new formula and give up the presidential palace," the source added.

The formula taken to Beirut by Ibrahimi over the weekend includes a Syrian undertaking "to withdraw from certain positions facing 'Awn's stronghold and to refrain from any military movement which could be construed as hostile" to the Christian enclave where the rebel general is holed up, according to the source.

Ibrahimi met with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni Sunday. He was scheduled to meet 'Awn and Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr Monday.

According to the source, Sfayr was to be sought to convey the details of the formula to Samir Ja'ja', head of the Lebanese Forces militia, which has been fighting 'Awn's forces for control of the Christian enclave. "Ja'ja' will be asked to provide a guarantee that his forces will stay put and do not threaten 'Awn in any way, and thus facilitate the general's evacuation of the palace," said the source. Fierce battles between army troops loyal to 'Awn and Lebanese Forces militiamen erupted Jan. 30 and claimed over 800 lives before a threat of excommunication halted the fighting about a week ago.

One of the thorny points in the Arab League mediation formula is how anyone could guarantee 'Awn's personal safety after leaving the presidential palace, the source said. "The most feasible arrangement will be to have all parties, including the Syrians, the Lebanese Forces, the Druze (militia of Progressive Socialist Party) and (Shiite militia leader Nabih) Birri undertake such a pledge, the

source said. "The essence of the formula is a total commitment and awareness of all that this could be the salvation for Lebanon," he added.

If 'Awn agrees to the arrangement, Saudi Arabia will pledge to convene an Arab summit as soon as possible and bring about a pan-Arab guarantee that Syria will move forward its withdrawal from Lebanon, according to the source. [passage omitted]

The source said a recent statement by 'Awn that he was willing to discuss a so'ution to the Lebanese conflict based on elements contained in the al-Ta'if agreement "is the result of the general's realisation that Iraq was serious in halting the flow of arms to him." [passage omitted]

There was no immediate indication of how Syria viewed the formula, but recent statements from Damascus have indicated that it is willing to cooperate with any effort aimed at a Lebanese settlement which ensures the implementation of the basic principles contained in the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

"The committee has welcomed the shift in 'Awn's position and has worked out the formula, keeping in mind that he has adopted a conciliatory stand after months of stalling," according to the source. "Final details are open to negotiations. The most important thing is to get the thing off the ground."

French Settlement Objectives Outlined

NC2003083390 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] According to press reports, French efforts in Lebanon are focused on achieving the following: first, the withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces from East Beirut to beyond Nahr al-Kalb and the deployment of the Lebanese Army there; second, the withdrawal of party gunmen from West Beirut and the Southern Suburb and the deployment of the army in those areas; third, the expansion of the legitimate government to include a portfolio for 'Awn or someone representing him and another portfolio for Ja'ja'; and fourth, the initiation of goverment discussion on the possibility of amending the al-Ta'if agreement.

British Embassy Said To Deny News Report

NC2003124990 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] he British Embassy has denied a report in the newspaper AL-DIYAR to the effect that British Ambassador Allan Ramsey has advised Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to step down. The British Embassy sent its cultural attache to the offices of this newspaper to deny the report.

'Awn Letter Reportedly Says Fighting To Continue

LD2103095690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0706 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 21 (KUNA)—It was reported here Wednesday that recent efforts by the Vatican have failed to bring together renegade Colonel Michel 'Awn and his opponent leader of the Lebanese Forces [LF] Samir Ja'ja' for a meeting in Rome. The efforts sought to secretly have the two rivals meet in Rome in an attempt to comprehensively settle the dispute between them which led to fierce fightings between their militias in East Beirut, killing hundreds of people and wounding thousands.

According to AL-QABAS newspaper, in a dispatch from the Lebanese capital, the Vatican has received a letter described as "very alarming" from Col. 'Awn on his decision about the fighting with Ja'ja'.

In the letter, "Awn said he has consulted with leading supporters and agreed to continue the fighting, which started on the 31st of January, using all available means to "clean" East Beirut from LF militias even if it was necessary to "burn all the land." [words indistinct]

No further details were reported by the paper on the Vatican efforts nor was the story attributed to identified sources.

'Awn Reiterates Rejection of Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC2103112490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has stated that the al-Ta'if agreement is the cause of the problems in the eastern area. In a press interview, he said that he cannot agree to torpedoing this agreement from within, maintaining that the al-Ta'if agreement has already collapsed and there is no need to bring it down again. He added that the call to reconsider it is a mere attempt to revive it. To undo the harm done to all, he said, it is necessary to admit that this agreement has collapsed and cannot be discussed again. A political solution of the problems in the eastern area would then become very possible, he said.

Ja'ja' on Current Situation, Mediation Efforts

NC2103072690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has asserted that confidence in the future will only be possible when major political solutions are found for the Lebanese crisis. He contended that security flare-ups are not always the result of security crises alone, adding that the appropriate political conditions must exist in order for them to take place.

On the normalization of the situation in East Beirut, Dr. Ja'ja' said the process is proceeding steadily. He reemphasized the need to find major solutions at the political level, saying that otherwise the security situation will remain open to setbacks.

Commenting on the current security situation, Dr. Ja'ja' said it is satisfactory, though incomplete. What we are trying to do is to create satisfactory political conditions conducive to a stable security situation, both in the eastern area and in Lebanon in general, he said.

On domestic and diplomatic efforts to reach a preliminary solution, which would later lead to a comprehensive solution, Dr. Ja'ja' said: Local and foreign diplomatic efforts are taking their right course. He stressed that he views these efforts positively and expressed the hope that they will produce the desired results.

Asked whether he is satisfied with developments, Dr. Ja'ja' said he is moderately satisfied. He added that the parties concerned are still thinking and that each is recalculating to decide his next step. He hoped all will take the right and realistic course because this is the only viable course at present, until the Lebanese can emerge from the crisis and turn what had happened into a victory for the Lebanese people.

Asked whether there is a solution in sight, he said he cannot be precise about that, because he always prefers to be reserved, scientific, and objective. He expressed the hope that the desired results will be reached soon with minimal efforts.

The Lebanese Forces commander concluded by calling on the citizens not to give up despite the difficulties, and to work out solutions that cover the entire homeland and will make it up to them as much as possible at the moral, political, social, and financial levels. He asserted that victory in peace is more heroic than victory in battle.

Hizballah Secretary General on Dispute With Amal

NC2103103490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpt] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, has affirmed that Hizballah is awaiting a peaceful and amicable end to its problem with Amal. We tried our best, more than anyone could tolerate, to avoid this battle, he added.

In a dialogue with the new Cyprus-based magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, he said that the fundamental reasons behind Hizballah's difference with Amal concern the issue of the Islamic resistance. Hizballah espouses the cause of resistance against Israel, while the Amal Movement does not believe this to be a sound choice, because it might get the region involved in clashes with Israel. He added: This talk is being used to scare people off. The truth is that Hizballah did not embark on hasty steps in fighting Israel and the multinational forces, but decided on its position after deeply pondering each step.

Shaykh al-Tufayli added that it is among the main principles of the Islamic resistance to safeguard our kinfolk and the villages adjacent to the security belt and to ensure their safety and economic welfare. He stressed that Hizballah had done its best to implement the Damascus agreement, from the day after it was concluded, when the coordination committee started its work, but the Amal Movement was not serious in its response.

Regarding Lebanese domestic affairs, the Hizballah secretary general said the issue of partition has become firmly fixed in the mentality of political Maronism. After the Maronites had made up their minds about their statelets, they started to struggle over who would be the chief authority. He added: If they want an end to their problem, they must give up the mentality of hegemony and domination over the country. [passage omitted]

Israelis Shell PFLP-GC Positions in Al-Biqa'

NC2103063090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Israeli occupation forces yesterday shelled the al-Sultan Ya'qub area in al-Biqa' with artillery. AFP reported that the targets of the shelling were positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], but made no mention of casualties.

Overfly Sidon, Palestinian Camps

NC2003203590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2025 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at 2130 today drawing antiaircraft fire. Flares were also fired in the area.

Overfly South, Mountain Area

NC2103101890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the south and the mountain area shortly after 1130 today, breaking the sound barrier several times.

'Unjust Campaign' Against Libyan Plant Criticized

JN2003163690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The big uproar Washington and the West in general have raised over the pharmaceutical factory in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the U.S. military movements that accompanied this campaign underscores several facts that the Arab nation should take seriously in case this or that Arab state decides to enter the age of development and science to serve its Arab people and nation.

The fact that the fire in the factory coincided with the Western campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriyah provokes suspicions regarding the role the parties to this campaign played in igniting the fire, and lends credibility to Libyan accusations that Washington and Israel were involved in this operation.

It is noteworthy that the unjust campaign against the al-Rabitah factory was based on flimsy, undocumented information gathered from here and there, including even media reports. Fragile and incredible though they were, these pieces of information were taken as justification for accusing the Libyan Jamahiriyah of threatening peace and security in the region. Therefore, the Libyan pharmaceutical factory fire and the uproar that preceded it are greatly significant in that Israel's Western allies consider the industrial, technological and scientific progress of any Arab state to be a source of danger and a threat to them, that this progress requires moves to strike at this or that scientific or technological target. Meanwhile, these allies of Israel ignore the stark evidence that the Zionist entity possesses all types of sophisticated weapons of destruction and ruination which threaten not only this or that Arab state, but also endanger the peace and security of the Arab region and the Arab nation in all parts of the Arab homeland.

It is ridiculous that Israel's allies, who view the region through the same lens, did not consider Israel's Jericho II missile, which fell near the Libyan city of Banghazi in July 1989, as a threat to the security of any Mediterranean country or to the security of Libya, near whose coast the missile fell. These allies, led by Washington, have supplied and are still supplying Tel Aviv with all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, and have extended to it all forms of military assistance and the advanced scientific know-how to produce more of these weapons. Recently, the U.S. secretary of defense openly discussed his government's intention to supply the Israelis with antimissile weapons and other sophisticated military hardware and equipment. Washington does not consider such a massive pile of destructive weapons in the Israeli arsenal to be a threat to the security of the region's states or to the security of the states in the Mediterranean basin.

The U.S. Administration, which sounded the alarm to draw the attention of the international community to the threats posed by the al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory, did not care to pay attention to or note the serious and genuine threats that Israel's armaments pose to security and peace in the Middle East and the world. Washington strongly criticized the states that extended the technological expertise necessary to build the al-Rabitah factory, whose only aim was to provide medicinal security to Libya, and to whoever needs it from the Arab world. Washington intentionally ignored the fact that the real threat does not come from extending such expertise to build a pharmaceutical factory, but from supplying advanced U.S. technology to Israel to help it build missiles and other weapons of mass destruction.

Israel, which is armed to the teeth with all these lethal weapons, and which is following an aggressive, expansionist policy, constitutes a danger not only to its neighbors but also to others. Indeed, when Israel launched the Jericho missile, it practically demonstrated that its threat encompassed the Mediterranean and nearby regions, and that with its long-range missiles, Israel threatens navigation and peace in all areas of the region.

In conclusion, the stands of the U.S. Administration, which is completely biased in favor of Israel at the expense of the Arabs and their legitimate rights, are not new. These stands continue to prove that the only way left for the Arabs to safeguard their national security, protect their interests, and defend world peace and security is to rely on themselves and build an effective solidarity to ward off dangers and protect their pan-Arab security.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Political Meetings

JN2003164890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 20 Mar (SANA)—The Council of Ministers held a session here today chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' gave a briefing on the results of several political meetings in both Arab and international arenas. [passage omitted]

Commentary Calls For United Arab Strategy

JN1903165690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Anyone who follows the local or regional developments in the region will surely be shocked at the new state of affairs of retreat and regression, especially since the October war marked out the path of salvation for the nation, overturned the balances of power, and created a real upheaval in the enemy's community. As a result, the Arab nation should have continued to be steadfast and to muster up more strength. What is happening, however, is the complete opposite. We are not here concerned with discussing the reasons behind the Arab regression. We

are seeking outlets that might enable the Arabs to recover and regain their fundamental role.

Observers concur that President al-Asad strongly sounded the alarm in his historic October Revolution speech when he called on the Arabs to make a comprehensive review of their policies and stands, and to objectively reassess the imminent dangers looming in their horizon, most recent of which is the massive Jewish emigration.

President al-Asad has asked the Arabs to lay aside trifles, rise to the level of pan-Arab responsibility, and achieve solidarity and unity. In his recent meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, President al-Asad concentrated anew on the international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations as a successful formula to achieve a peaceful settlement in the region inspired by UN resolutions.

It is known that the international peace conference means the participation of all parties, including the PLO. It also means the Arab's accord and understanding in confronting the enemy with a common strategy.

When we review the events of history we clearly realize that the Zionist enemy has always sought to fragment, partition, and create gaps in the Arab stand to be able to deal with each side separately. Out of this perspective, the enemy has rejected the international peace conference, and mobilized all available means of pressure to thwart international consensus, which crystallized in the foregoing period, to convene a conference under UN auspices. Thus, instead of the international conference, concentration has shifted to bilateral meetings, contacts, and negotiations, which are not thought to lead to the result desired by the Arabs, because the aim of the Zionist enemy, as we have noted, is to fragment the Arab position and humiliate the negotiating side leading it into more and more concessions until it finally gives up on the issue. We would like here to point out that, up to this moment, the Zionist enemy insists on determining in advance all the details of the possible bilateral negotiations, beginning with the composition of the delegations, their affiliations and loyalties, and ending with the minutes of the negotiations, rejecting thus any discussion of the Palestinians' rights to self-determination, freedom, independence, and the building of the state and the homeland. The enemy also rejects the principle of withdrawal from the occupied territories and halting settlement activity.

Because this result was expected and because any party that heads toward unilateral negotiations will reap the selfsame bitter fruits, Syria was the first to call the Arabs to unite and become one, adhere to the international peace conference under UN auspices, and participate in the conference with a united Arab delegation and strategy. And because negotiating with the enemy from a weak position leads to unilateral, free of charge concessions, and makes the enemy more intransigent in his demands, Syria has called on the Arabs to pool their energies and capabilities and employ them in the service of the fateful confrontation with the enemy. When the Arabs bring about such a situation, the enemy will initiate concessions, not the Arabs, the way we are seeing right now.

The international peace conference remains now and in the future the best formula for achieving an honorable settlement. For the international conference is supervised by the United Nations and stems from the resolutions of this international organization; it deprives Israel of the opportunity to delay, procrastinate, or maneuver. Peace has certain bases which were clarified in the UN resolutions—the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and enforcing the Palestinian Arab peoples' rights in their homeland and territory. Therefore, President al-Asad's call on the Arabs to review their policies and stands, return to solidarity and unity, and face their enemy and its aggressive, expansionist schemes with an effective, influential policy, assumes an overriding importance in light of the failure of unilateral arrangements and the escalation of dangers—which include a massive Jewish immigration posing a threat to the Arabism of the occupied territories.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Delivers New Year Address to Nation

LD2003235290 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 20 Mar 90

[New Year address to the nation by President Najibullah on 20 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Dear compatriots, brothers and sisters, in a few hours 1368 reaches its end and the Muslim and gallant people of Afghanistan enter the new year of 1369, after going through harsh days. They enter 1369 with the hope for the cessation of war and the assurance of peace in the country. Allow me to express to all Afghan families, Pashtun and Baluch, and to all Muslims of the world and brother Islamic countries the best congratulations of the State of the Republic of Afghanistan and my own congratulations on the occasion of the start of the new year and the ancient festival of Nawroz. To the calendar of the history of our country, 1368 added various socioeconomic and political incidents and measures, the basic characteristics of which is the creation of convenient grounds for the implementation of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The continuation of national reconciliation in all aspects, the expansion of negotiation, contacts and understanding with groups, commanders, and individuals in the opposition for the cessation of war in the country, the broadening of democracy in the socio-political life, taking measures for the acceleration of the transport and the distribution of the primary goods, paying attention to cultural and educational activities, the enhancement of the defense capability of the country against aggression from abroad and the strengthening of the international credibility of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] have been the most important measures of the Government of the RA during 1368. As a result of those measures, with the exception of some provinces bordering Pakistan, in most parts of the country the situation is relatively calm. A numbers of ringleaders and commanders of the armed opposition, appreciating the necessity of national reconciliation, have stopped their armed activities and have maintained the security of their areas.

Fellow countrymen, the political solution of the problem of Afghanistan becomes increasingly acceptible to the people of Afghanistan and the peaceloving people of the world as the only sensible solution. The Government of the RA in the international scene continues its flexible and peaceloving policy and has expressed its interest in the consolidation of mutually useful relations with all countries in the world and in the first place with the neighboring countries and Islamic countries. Following the policy of nonalignment, the RA persistently emphasizes the proposal of the enshrining of the permanent neutralization and demilitarization of Afghanistan and has requested all countries and especially Islamic brother countries, the signatories of the Geneva agreements, and the UN Organization, to help the misery-inflicted people of Afghanistan to find a solution that is sensible and acceptable to all involved sides.

All in all, 1368 has been the year of the strengthening of national and international trends towards a peaceful and political solution in Afghanistan. In the last days of the current year, a number of elements traitorous to the high interests of Afghanistan and the enemies of national reconciliation policy who saw their existence in the continuation of war and bloodshed once again bereaved our compatriots and revealed their unclean intention against our people and our country, Afghanistan, by mounting an anti-national, anti-reconciliation coup.

Shanawaz and another handful of traitors, in collaboration with Golbuddin under the instruction of the Pakistani military intelligence agency, resorted to a bloody act, in fact against the desire of the people of Afghanistan, i.e., the policy of national reconciliation and the expansion of democracy and brought under air and ground strikes civil and state targets. While the government and the people of the RA were passing the last days of the completion of the withdrawal of the Soviet Union forces with confidence in a peaceful future in the country, waylaying traitors used their anti-national, anti-reconciliation act to stab the executors of this humane policy in the back and obliterate all our people's achievements over the past three years of the national reconciliation policy. The people of Afghanistan, having full confidence in the policy of national reconciliation and believing the fact that comprehensive political solution is impossible through a coup d'etat and militarism and selfish dictatorship, learned about the aims and intentions of Golbuddin-Shahnawaz and company and expressed their loath and adhorrence toward them.

The heroic Armed Forces of Afghanistan, political allies, friends and supporters of the state of the RA, personalities and scholars of various fields, clergy, 'ulema, farmers, laborers, intellectuals, various nationalities, tribes and clan of the country all maintained their excellent unity, coordination, and prudent wisdom in such sensitive situation of the country. They all stood for the defense of the national reconciliation policy and for the expansion of democracy in the country. With the manifestation of their pure national sentiments they condemned anti-human acts of the coup plotters and traitors and demanded that the Government of the RA punish the traitors and those responsible for the victims of Golbuddin-Shahnawaz coup d'etat. Once again I express my deepest condolences and that of the Government of the RA to the families which have lost their relatives in the incidents of 6-7 March and ask that they be granted the best patience and enormous reward from God.

Muslim and faithful compatriots, the philosophy of the ancient festival of Nawroz, the Islamic and historic rites of our country, are shrouded in the ensuring of peace, reconciliation and the consolidation of brotherhood, help with fellow human beings and the true service of the people. Tomorrow, when the first day of the new year

starts and our people welcome one year with the wish of peace and the hope of the cessation of war, do strive with all strength and ability for the securing of peace and the cessation of the fratricide and fulfil your patriotic role in the safeguarding of the independence, territorial integrity, the implementation of national reconciliation and the expansion of its achievement.

Toiling farmers of the country, welcome the auspicious festival of the farmers of country with work and cultivation and agriculture. The Government of the RA continues the granting of assistance and credits for the development of your agriculture. Before everything else you need peace in your farms, orchards, and vineyards. Work with indefatigable efforts and with hope for the peaceful future of the country and carry on struggle against the warmongers.

Patriotic political personalities, scholars, clergy, and intellectuals of the country, the time has now come to go hand in hand and fulfil our Islamic, national, and Afghan role and fulfill the mission for peace and the cessation of war in the country. The fate of an independent, Islamic, nonaligned, and united Afghanistan will be determined at the hands of those who think on the prosperity of the people, the securing of peace and cessation of war and act for them.

Members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and political allies of the RA, with the motto of service to the homeland, fulfill your national duties and missions with understanding and coordination for the defense of the high interests of Afghanistan, the safeguarding of independence, and the territorial integrity of our beloved country, the RA. Expand the front, of supporters of peace and use the expansion of democracy and national reconciliation, which are the only ways of the realization of the hopes of our people, for the restoration of peace and the cessation of war.

Enhance your vigilance and wisdom before the conspiracies of the enemies of the people and national reconciliation and united struggle against the aggressor of the national dignity and honor of the country.

Members of the heroic Armed Forces of the RA, in these moments while the people of Afghanistan celebrate the ancient Nawroz, you defend with Afghan pride in the trenches and defend the country and national sovereignty. Anywhere and under any condition do not allow the aggressors and warmongers to disrupt the security and the calm of the people. You are the strong and epicmaking sons of the country. The people of Afghanistan are proud of your heroism and valor. The people of Afghanistan have pinned their hopes on your high combat preparedness, craftsmanship, and high morale. Consolidate the unity of the Armed Forces of the RA by all-out coordination and help your compatriots in their daily work.

Internal ringleaders and commanders, start the new year by stopping combat operations and maintaining the security of your areas. The people of your areas look forward to your patriotic, Islamic, and Afghan decision to end war and to restore peace. Give a seemly reply to the demands of your war-weary people. National reconciliation has prepared all possibilities of a peaceful life for you. The restoration of peace and coming to terms with national reconciliation is not surrendering to one another. By this patriotic act you put an end to the eleven years of your people's pains and miseries. On this auspicious day I once again remind you to think about the peace-loving, Islamic, and Afghan proposals of the Government of the RA; make your decision independently.

Far from the country refugees, I congratulate you and your noble families on the arrival of the new year. I hope you will make your own return to the homeland in the new year. The people of Afghanistan and your relatives and friends are looking forward to seeing you. Put an end to the harsh life in the land of aliens the reason for which has alleviated.

Dear compatriots, the Government of the RA will continue the policy of national reconciliation in spite of the hostile anti-national stances of those who still continue the military solution and realize its efforts for the cessation war and the restoration of peace to the country. In the future the RA will also continue its peaceloving policy in international scene and will continue mutually useful relations with all the countries of the world, especially with neighboring and fraternal Islamic countries. We welcome bilateral economic and political assistance and in the frame of the UN efforts, which are carried out for the acceleration of search a political solution and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. I would like to congratulate the arrival of the new year to my compatriots, inside and outside the country, once again. I wish from God a year of peace, calm, faternity full of prosperity for all of the country's faithful people. The victory of the people of Afghanistan is our only wish. Success comes from God.

Najibullah Speaks at Meeting With Elders

LD2003191990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at meeting with the elders of Parvan, Bamian, and Kapisa; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. I am sincerely very pleased to find myself among you. [passage omitted] The coup d'etat makers chose two centers: one was the Ministry of Defense's headquarters, and the headquarters of their so-called revolutionary administration, and the second was Bagram. Revolutionary [words indistinct] who have been brought up by you [words indistinct] in the law of [word indistinct] units and companies, this heroism that they had [word indistinct] from you. [applause] Praise be upon your fathers and mothers that you have brought up such children in your dignified and honorable embraces. We should bow our heads before you in respect.

The second center of the coup d'etat was Bagram. Parvan was contacted, its military command was instructed to convene its provincial defense council, and to take appropriate measures. After a few minutes we were assured that the ground forces [word indistinct] and in particular the artillery forces in Parvan, began their courageous assault to neutralize the den where the Pakistani and Golbuddin spy had taken shelter. [applause] [passage omitted]

The second topic which I wanted to touch on, was that yesterday we held the plenum of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee. In this plenum we discussed how we could speed up the policy of national reconciliation, as a result of which peace and security would be maintained in the country and national accord would be restored. I believe that now, with the blessing of God and your prayers, the obstacles to the policy of national reconciliation have been eliminated and thus it should be expanded and propagated. You may have heard, through the mass media—and it will be published in the newspapers—that we have decided what changes should be introduced into the constitution and, in connection with the Charter of the PDPA and its aims, we have discussed the question of removing the pioneer character of the PDPA so that there would be no prejudicial diffentiation. That is, the pioneer character of the PDPA which has been included in the preamble of the constitution of the PDPA, should, we said, with the convocation of a Loya Jirgah which I hope would be held in the near future, should be removed. [applause] It is not possible for one to become pioneer through laws and decrees; it is through service to the people and being in the service of the people, which makes one a pioneer to and loved by the people.

We have also (?regulated) our approach as to how we should deal with various social organizations. How should we deal with the existing whole and or coalition of political forces in the country and in the future with new political forces? And also how should we deal with the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan? What [words indistinct] in the charter of the party? Should the name of the PDPA be changed? Fortunately, all unanimously [words indistinct] these new proposals.

A sincere, friendly, determined, and energetic atmosphere for further work and further service was noticed among the comrades that had never been seen before. I know now the blessing of this matter and the blessing of God that if unclean blood is taken from the veins of human beings, how strong and united and sincere the human being becomes. [applause]

Another topic was also discussed there, that is, that after this we should not say Shanawaz-Golbuddin, but Golbuddin-Shanawaz because when we announced the first declaration, Shanawaz had thought that his coup d'etat would be successful and that then Golbuddin would come to Shanawaz. However, the coup attempt failed and Shanawaz went to Golbuddin. [applause]

The worst thing is that Golbuddin's leadership is now under question after hurriedly supporting the coup d'etat within two hours—that is his support for bloodshed, for murder, for bombing and destruction—when he sees now the rection of the people of Afghanistan, when he sees now the reaction of the opposition armed forces and that of the opposition commanders, when he sees the reaction of the [Alliance of] Six from whom Golbuddin had broken away, that not even one of them affirmed this action, when he sees that the Alliance of Nine do not support this coup d'etat either, and when he sees now that the refugees and other Afghans do not support this coup d'etat [words indistinct] and this question. You, Golbuddin, stated that you did not want to sit with these infidels, but today you sat [words indistinct]. Was it Shahnawaz who became Muslim or it was it you who became an infidel? I should tell you that he was an infidel from the beginning because Almighty God states in the holy Koran that whoever deliberately kills someone will be in hell forever.

In this way they both joined, and under pressure Golbuddin is saying: No, no, no. I did not go on to Shahnawaz; Shahnawaz came to me. [applause] One cannot become more weak and cowardly and dishonored than this that even the person who, until yesterday, ordered him to destroy your country, eliminate your people, is today ashamed of him and says: I did not go to him, he has come to me.

We cannot call such people Afghans. However, if Golbuddin came to Shahnawaz, that means Golbuddin would have come to Afghanistan. But he went to Golbuddin [words indistinct]. I tell him now, he might hear it this evening, that going to Golbuddin—where is Golbuddin? In Pakistan—going to Golbuddin means going to Pakistan. Pakistan! From where the bloodshed and the wounds inflicted on Afghanistan over the years (?emanated). And if God wills, these powerful hands of the people of Afghanistan, if the unity comes, will reach the chest of the militarists. [applause]

The third point is the depth of the conspiracy and the intrigue. During the investigation of those arrested, it was revealed that they had decided that after Najib's downfall all the party members should be murdered, even their children in the cradle should be eliminated. Their women should be sent to camps where they would be sold to the Arabs. All the people of Afghanistan [words indistinct] and after the blood-bath, the blood-bath that Golbuddin had said that he wanted in Afghanistan, after the blood-bath and the selling of Afghanistan to Pakistan under the name of confederation or whatever other name—there was not even the name of confederation this time—this the independence, freedom, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan was going to be lost. That is why I told you that I am proud that once again all of us have saved Afghanistan from being sold. [applause]

Very well! If Afghanistan had been sold to Pakistan, or amalgamated [with it], what would have been the situation in the region? New information reaching me from

inside Benazir Bhutto's cabinet and from inside the Pakistani militarists, say that a number of extremists and fundamentalists sat together and said that if the coup d'etat in Afghanistan was successful, a fundamentalist friendly government would be set in place, so let us begin work on how to put an end to Benazir Bhutto's government. Ziaul Haq had included an article in the constitution until 20 March 1990 that the installation of the prime minister could be carried out by the head of state. Now [words indistinct] and Benazir cannot remain in the government, so the government should be handed over to the fundamentalist forces in Pakistan.

After the installation of these two fundamentalisms, one in Afghanistan and one in Pakistan, all the forces including the so-called mujahidin forces should be directed against India in connection with Jamu and Kashmir. It was not only Afghanistan that was to have been transformed into the center of fire, the entire region was to be turned into a center of fire. Also, the claims of fundamentalists such as Golbuddin, which you have heard, that if they had the opportunity and if they succeeded in obtaining power here, then they would strive forward toward Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. They would then be at war with the Soviet Union, too.

What would have been the fate of the people of Afghanistan? How many of them would have been killed and eliminated in these wars, in hostility with all the countries? And if these fundamentalists come to power, Golbuddin-Shahnawaz—not only the rights of a variety of nationalities would be trampled under foot—Bamian and Hazarajat would certainly [words indistinct] but all the forces would be mobilized under the orders of Wahhabism.

The depth of the conspiracy was this: Afghanistan would have been the center of tension, a hot oven, at war with India, with Iran, with the Soviet Union, and the people of Pakistan and trampling under foot the present process of democracy in Pakistan. Now you can see what service, not only for the history of Afghanistan and its independence and freedom, has been accomplished by you, but you have saved the people of the region. It could be included in the history of Afghanistan and the history of this region what bravery the people of Afghanistan have displayed through neutralizing this conspiracy, what policy and what historical measure they have accomplished! Therefore, I sincerely congratulate you courageous people.

My expectation from you, dear elders, is to tell the commanders, as one of the dignitaries here said, and I am also aware of it that some of the internal commanders had decided to take part in that defense because they knew the character of Golbuddin and of Shahnawaz, to stand with us to the end in that united trench which has been formed by the will of God, and give hands to one another for the creation of honorable, united, indestructible, victorious, and independent Afghanistan, and sit with one another and solve all problems and issues; to serve the people on the basis of: The best of people are those whom the people benefit. [applause]

Rockets Fired at Kabul on New Year's Eve

BK2003133890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 20 (AFP)—Suspected Afghan rebels fired five rockets into Kabul Tuesday [20 March], the eve of the Afghan New Year, killing one person and wounding seven others, an official spokesman said.

The rockets hit as security forces conducted mopping up operations in the Paghman hills surrounding the capital and seized a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition, the spokesman said. One rocket slammed into a house in the city's Khaikhana area, killing a man and wounding five, while a second hit a grain silo wounding two. The three other rockets caused only "economic damage," hitting a block of municipal residential flats, a market behind a cinema hall and a correctional facility, the spokesman said. The rockets, one a U.S.-made cluster and four Egyptian-built SAK-30's, landed as Afghans in the capital prepared to celebrate the start of their year 1369.

New Year's Day falls exactly two weeks after forces loyal to President Najibullah crushed an internal military coup against his Soviet-backed government. The coup was mounted by Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, who fled Kabul with several of his supporters.

5 Rockets Hit; 1 Killed

BK2103153690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan state that five rockets have landed in Kabul, on the occasion of New Years Day, killing one person and injuring eight. One of the rockets landed in a residential complex of the Kabul regime. Other rockets damaged a food storehouse, a grain storehouse, and a school.

Meanwhile, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that Muhammad 'Ali Rahmani, governor designate of the Afghan Interim Government to Konarha Province, has begun discharging his duties.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Reported

BK2003153890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report, mujahidin forces occupied two posts of strategic importance in an operation in Maydanshar in Afghanistan and killed many Kabul regime troops. According to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] the mujahidin carried out surprise attacks on Kabul troops in Nangarhar Province destroying three

tanks and their with crews. Many Kabul troops surrendered to the mujahidin with their weapons.

According to another report, the mujahidin in various operations in Herat and Qandahar Provinces killed 50 Kabul militia personnel and arrested 16 others. In an operation in Qandahar, eight Kabul regime troops joined the mujahidin with their arms.

AIG's Sayyaf Links Soviets to Tanay Coup Bid

PM2003140890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
15 Mar 90 p 6

[Ahmad Muhammad Zaydan report: "Sayyaf Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Tanay Coup Attempt Supported by Soviet Union"]

[Excerpts] Babi (Pakistan), AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Professor 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the Afghan mujahidin interim government, has reiterated that the Soviets were linked to the abortive coup attempt led by former Kabul Defense Minister General Shahnawaz Tanay, that they expected it to succeed but preferred to delay their support for 24 hours, and that when they discovered that Najibullah had the upper hand they changed their mind and declared their support for Najibullah and condemned the coup. [passage omitted]

With regard to his assessment of the coup and of the extent to which the mujahidin benefited from it, Sayyaf said: "The origin of the coup lies in the power struggle between the two wings of the ruling Communist Party. There is nothing new in that. The rift between them began a month after the Communist Party was formed. It was a coup by one communist wing against another. When the Soviets were in Afghanistan they controlled the differences and did not allow them to turn into armed confrontation. After the Soviet withdrawal such confrontation was expected at any moment. During the recent battles between the two wings, the mujahidin seized the opportunity by shelling some of the regime's positions and occupying some positions close to their own. That was on the instructions of the mujahidin government."

With regard to the mujahidin government's attitude to the two wings during the clashes, he said: "We did not side with either against the other because we knew that both were bitter enemies of Islam and that they were the basic and main cause of what happened in Afghanistan." He added: "The massacres carried out against the people were carried out by butchers from both wings. So we have no reason to support one against the other." [passage omitted]

Asked about the mujahidin government's positon if Tanay managed to form a military council with some of the mujahidin in the eastern areas of Afghanistan, Sayyaf said: "The mujahidin government will not support any elections that do not have the support of the majority of the mujahidin forces, even if only Muslims were involved in them, not to mention communist participation." He added: "Muslims should not share power with the communists—not even for a single day." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT concerning the mujahidin's position on U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly's recent plan calling for negotiations between true representatives of the areas under Najibullah's control and the proposed mujahidin shura council for the formation of a government representing the Afghan people, Sayyaf said: "This proposal is basically unacceptable because the shura council that we are in the process of forming will consist of people with influence and decision-making power, and this will not be the case unless it is chosen under the supervision of an Islamic committee consisting of people who accept only Allah as God, Islam as their religion, and Muhammad as their prophet."

With regard to the effects of the recent developments on the mujahidin plan to form the shura council, Sayyaf said: "We are working in earnest for the formation an elected council." [passage omitted]

Concerning whether the mujahidin would be willing to stop interference in the affairs of Muslims in the Soviet Union if the Soviets abandoned the communists in Kabul, Sayyaf said: "First of all, we are not prepared to negotiate with the Soviets on matters which concern our country's internal affairs. As regards neighborly relations, we would not agree with them on matters which are not right. We have struggled for Islam and we will abide by its laws in everything to do with our lives as individuals and as a society."

Keshtmand Addresses Council on Budget

LD1703222390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Speech by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, at a 17 March session of the Council of Ministers—recorded]

[Text] Dear members of the Council of Ministers. The general regular session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] is being held while there are a few days remaining to the end of 1368 [1990, ending 20 March],a nd our people await the arrival of the New Year.

1368 has been an exceptional year. During the year, various incidents have taken place for our people and in our society; bitter and grave incidents emanating from the continuation and the aggravation of the war and the conspiracies of the traitors to the country, and also commendable and epic-making events for the defense of the country, and the defeat of enemy plots and conspiracies.

On the one hand, the successful defense of our territorial integrity and the independence and national sovereignty of our united country frustrated the idle hopes of the extremist

warmonger forces and their regional and international supporters, and shed cold water on the fire of their desire and hopes for military accession to power; on the other it has created hopes and real optimism for the safeguarding of the democratic achievements of the people, for the capability of the resolute defense of the sovereignty and the interests of the people and the country, and for the attainment of peace and national accord.

The last bloody incident—which engraves forever the scar of shame on the foreheads of the organisers, instigators, and the people who mounted it—took place in the last days of 1368. The treacherous coup d'etat attempt mounted by Shahnawaz Tanay, organized abroad with the collaboration of the criminal group of Golbuddin Hekmatyar was aborted by the heroism of the main section of the country's Armed Forces under the leadership of the supreme command of the Armed Forces chaired by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and with the active cooperation of the organs of state, party, and social organizations. It was the greatest achievement of the people.

By so doing, [words indistinct] and acts of the present sovereignty overcame the dictatorship-forming black aim of the conspirators and showed the correctness of the way selected by us, based on national reconciliation and political attitude, in overcoming the unleashed militarist high-handedness of the coup plotters, warmongers, and their supporters.

Great loss of life and material damage resulting from the coup attempt has been inflicted on our compatriots, especially in Kabul. Compensation will require great expense by the government. Even so, considerable material assistance has been extended by various sections of society, as well as its moral and political support, and condemnation of the treacherous act by the coup plotters. About 30 million afghanis have been deposited in the related account of the Afghanistan Bank, and 24 million afghanis have been donated directly to the families of the victims by merchants and national entrepreneurs. A considerable amount of aid is expected from our people, and from humanitarian establishments and friendly countries. Damage has been determined by the government, and funds have been allocated in the budget for 1369 [1990, beginning 21 March] which has been discussed today at our session.

Before speaking in connection with the planning envisaged for the new year, it is necessary to have a quick look at the way the plan and state budget for 1368 was implemented. The continuation and intensification of war in 1368 by the extremist warmongers and their foreign patrons in various forms, such as destructive attacks on cities and economic regions, economic sabotage, continuous blockades of highways, economic blockades of cities and localities, and inflicting human losses and financial damage on the people has added to the country's economic difficulties. Also, organizing the independent defense of the country and freedom and interests of the people required considerable security and defense expenditure. Taking into account the special political-military situation in the country in the current year necessary economic measures taken by the government, which were reflected in the implementation of the state plan and budget. During the current year specific amendments and changes took place in the targets and measures of the plan and state budget in order to enhance the level of overcoming the destruction and economic difficulties resulting from the antipeople and antihomeland activities of the extremist forces, and to strengthen the defensive power of the country's Armed Forces. Therefore, the policy based on creating difficulties and economic sabotage, particularly with the blockade of the Jalalabad-Torkham highway to halt goods needed by the people, which was carried out against our country on the instructions of known Pakistani circles, was defeated.

The relative stability of the social economic situation in the country has been maintained to a considerable extent as a result of efforts by the organs of state administration and work complex [as heard]. The interruption of economic ties and an economic crisis was prevented. [passage indistinct] In order to meet this, 25 new projects with special importance under the present conditions, such as a new Kabul-Baghram road, an extension to the airfield in Mazar-e Sharif, new security trenches for Kabul, extentions to and construction of airfields at Mayman, Shaberghan, and Konduz, and other necessary projects were constructed, for which new development allocations were issued to the value of 1.5 billion afghanis.

During 1368, 75 projects became operational, while in the economic relations of the Republic of Afghanistan with foreign countries and international establishments, a new impetus was created. A number of exchange documents and cooperation protocols were signed with the friendly countries. The handing over of foodstuff, fuel, equipment, and tools under joint Afghan-Soviet projects continued, based on protocols and agreements. In the course of the year the results of the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan were discussed three times in general sessions of the Council of Ministers. Also, specifically, separate sections and spheres of the national economy were assessed at the various sessions of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, which resulted in work improvement. However, all this does not mean that shortcomings and deficiencies do not exist in the work of ministries and state departments. Shortcomings and deficiencies, along with carelessness, and a lack of attention and of responsibility has several times been noted, and will be seriously criticized and investigated.

In connection with the envisaged targets and duties in drafting the socioeconomic development plan of the RA for 1369: To draft the plan for 1369, the objective condition of the country and financial and technical resources have been taken into account. The goals and duties of the plan are mainly to ensure the country's urgent and important needs, the full implementation of which require the relative and harmonious growth of the

various sections of the national economy. In the socio-economic plan for 1369, the further utilization of existing resources and enhancement of the effectiveness of production, resolving tasks which have prime importance in the socioeconomic sphere, development of the state, mixed, cooperative sectors of the national economy, with the active participation of the private sector in order to accelerate the development of the national economy, and achievement of an economic potential to a fixed limit, is envisaged.

By implementing the tasks mentioned in the plan, the volume of the domestic raw product, in comparison to the evaluation for 1368, will increase to 12.5 percent and national income to 11.8 percent. Despite the difficulties resulting from the continuation and intensification of the war in the country, and in order to resolve the most urgent economic issues during 1369, the volume of development investment is envisaged to increase 44 percent in relation to the evaluation of the expenses for 1368. In the composition of the development of investment from internal sources, sections of the social services, particularly public health, transportation, communications and housing construction will have priority, followed by agriculture and the irrigation industry.

The creation of a financial, technical foundation and of preparatory and logistical facilities for the sections of the Armed Forces, in order to strengthen the country's defense capabilities is envisaged in the economic measures for 1369.

Completion of transitional projects has been taken into consideration in the plan, and it is envisaged that during 1369, more than 120 transitional projects will become fully or partially operational. Despite the credit and assistance for projects, or grant-in-aid by friendly countries, particularly the Soviet Union, humanitarian and economic assistance from the office of the organiser of UN assistance, under the name of Salam [as heard] and from other UN special organizations for Afghanistan is envisaged. As is known, the SALAM operation will render assistance to the agricultural sector, help with foodstuffs, [words indistinct] of mines, road repairs, housing construction, energy and communications, public health, irrigation, and development of manpower resources, as well as render assistance to the maimed and injured and returnees to the sum of $410 million. A total of $223 million is envisaged by UN special organisations for the year 1369. Under the assistance of the SALAM operation, which covers a total of more than $1 billion, the share of assistance in material is 69 percent, the provision of urgent assistance 21 percent, while the direct share of other committed countries is 10 percent. The state budget for 1369 has been drafted whereby under the conditions of the continuing economic destruction by the warmongering antistate and anti-people forces, with the backing of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the strengthening of the country's defense forces still has importance. A reduction in the state income and the inflation resulting from the continuation of war on one hand, and an increase in the urgent expenses of the ministries and departments based on the aforementioned reasons on the other, is reflected in the budget for 1369. In general, the state budget, with an increase of 4.4 percent income and 12.1 percent expenses in comparison to the evaluation of the budget for 1368, has been drafted. In the state budget, in addition to ensuring the expenses of the various sections of the state administration apparatus, continuation and expansion of the social and cultural services to the people, as well as the continuation of state special assistance to the people of the suffering regions of the country, assistance to different categories of state employees and to workers who have a fixed income by way of an increase to their food supplement from 50 and 30 afghanis daily to 100 afghanis daily, is envisaged, beginning 1369.

It is also envisaged that the aforementioned food allowance will be paid to civil servants and government employees during the month of Ramadan for breaking their fast and to help their families. Due to the persistent demands of intellectuals and cultural circles, academic allowances for graduate will be increased from the beginning of 1369 as follows: High school certificate allowance from 100 afghanis to 150 afghanis; diploma allowance from 150 afghanis to 225 afghanis; bachelors, allowance from 200 to 300 afghanis; postgraduate allowance from 250 afghanis to 375 afghanis; masters allowance from 300 afghanis to 600 afghanis; and doctors allowance from 600 to 800 afghanis. Those state employees who do not use state transport will be paid monthly on the basis of 50 afghanis per day. The food and transportation allowance is given for work, and naturally those employees who attend work can benefit from those allowances. Increases to the income of employees does not mean an increase of their salaries, but it has the characteristic of encouragement, and is paid to compensate for energy lost in the course of their work and to increase the income of every state employee by 3,000 afghanis per month throughout the country.

To improve the organization of working hours in the adminstration of state organs and institutions of the RA, work regimes will be organized in such a way as to create the necessary facilities for the transportation of various categories of workers to their daily and work and so they will benefit effectively from their off duty hours. Similarly, precise measures are envisaged in the resolution of today's session of the Council of Minsters to improve transportation services in Kabul in connection with the transportation of state employes and workers, pupils and students, and various sections of the residents of Kabul in connection with their work regime.

Similarly, an important legal documents has been approved for the improved organization of economic affairs and to help with various sections of state employees and certain sections of the people. Among them we name the law of [words indistinct] of private sector transportation vehicles, the regulation of [words indistinct] of Islamic education, and the regulation of the health hazards of medical employees of the country's civil and military hospitals.

Dear members of the Council of Minsters. In the draft socioeconomic development plan and state budget for the year 1369, great tasks have been assigned to organs of state administration. The aims and tasks contemplated in the drafting of the plan are great in light of our material, financial, and technical capabilities, but compared to the needs of society, they are small. It is necessary that all capabilities be widely used and that work is rendered precisely, collectively, practically, and with deep feeling of responsibility before the people and the country in order that asigned duties will be fulfilled.

Ministries and administrative sections are obliged to set out the duties of their related departments precisely, and immediately after the budget and socioeconomic plan for 1369 receive the assent of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. They will raise the level of work management and ensure systematic control over the activities of the related organs. The fulfillment of the work planned for the coming year has exceptional and special importance because those duties are directed to strengthening the socioeconomic foundations of the implementation of the humane policy of national reconciliation. It can be asserted with assurance that members of the government have the readiness to alleviate present (?problems and shortcomings) in their related fields, and to take steady and practical steps for the implementation of the budget and socioeconomic development plan for 1369.

India

Pakistani Army Seeks 'Mujahidin Army' Recruits

BK2003161290 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1528 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Further evidence of Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir affairs has come to light. The Pakistani Army has inserted an advertisement in NAWA-I-WAQT to enroll people into the so-called mujahidin army in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The advertisement overtly states that these persons will be given 12 weeks of military training.

Visiting Pakistani Politician Comments on Kashmir

BK2103014290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] The president of the National Democratic Party of Pakistan, Sardar Sher Baz Khan Mazari, has called for more openness between India and Pakistan to build a better relationship. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, Sardar Mazari said there should be free flow of travel, exchange of delegations and newspapers to promote bilateral ties as majority of people in Pakistan love India.

Sardar Mazari, who is now on a visit to India, views that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally, taking into consideration the aspirations of the people of the state.

Meanwhile, another evidence of Pakistan's interference in Kashmir affairs has come to notice. An advertisement from Pakistan Army has been published in a newspaper for recruiting men from the occupied Kashmir area to so-called mujahidin force. It clearly says that these men will be imparted 12 weeks of military training.

Kuwait Told of Pakistani Assistance To Kashmiris

BK1703161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] India has drawn the attention of Kuwait, which chairs the 46-nation group Islamic Conference Organization, to Pakistan's enhanced assistance to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. In a letter to the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh al-Jabir, delivered today by the special envoy, Mrs. Najma Heptulla, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has hoped that better sense will prevail on Pakistan and tension will be defused by adherence to the Simla agreement.

Our Gulf correspondent Jagmohan Mathur reports that during over half an hour discussion with Mrs. Heptulla today, the amir said it is for the people of India to solve the problem. The Kuwaiti amir said that his country is against interference in the internal affairs of any country, even on the basis of religion.

Gujral: Negotiations on PRC Border To Continue

BK1703163890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 mar 90

[Excerpts] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said that India is to carry forward negotiations with China on the border dispute.

In a speech on India's foreign policy through the nineties, read out in absentia, Mr. Gujral said that India would also improve and expand bilateral relations with its northern neighbors. [passage omitted]

Mr. Gujral said Indo-Sri Lankan relations would move into a new phase after the withdrawal of Indian Peacekeeping Force shortly.

On Nepal, the external affairs minister said that the difficulty which afflicted our relations with that country will be resolved through a sincere dialogue.

ROK Seeks Delhi's Help in Entering United Nations

BK1603150790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] South Korea has sought the help of India and the Nonaligned Movement to gain entry into the United Nations. The request was conveyed by the visiting South Korean minister, Mr. Choe Ho-chung, during his meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in New Delhi today. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that Mr. Gujral supported the idea of unification of the two Koreas and said it has to be worked out by the two sides.

Singh Views National Issues, Foreign Relations

BK1603131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that the experiment of a truly democratic government is to be sustained and strengthened despite all the contradictions. He described the installation of the National Front government with support from the left parties and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] as the historic beginning of a new political culture. This, he said, marks a shift from politics based on personality to politics based on issues.

Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was replying to the three-day debate in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the president's address to both houses of parliament. The motion was later adopted by a voice vote amid thumping of desks.

The prime minister in his 80-minute reply spoke about various issues confronting the nation and also about foreign relations. Some important announcements include an increase in the pension to the widows of the 1984 riot victims to 1,000 rupees from the present 400 per month. He also said that proposals providing for one rank, one pension scheme for the ex-servicemen will be brought in during the current session.

Mr. V.P. Singh indicated that the defense budget may have to be increased because of new challenges faced by the country.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs is already in that state, and on his return to New Delhi an all-party meeting will be called in an endeavor to find a collective solution.

About Punjab, he said the formation of a committee consisting of major political parties to advise the governor is a welcome step.

On the economic front, the prime minister said that the main task is to save the country from getting into a debt trap, though it may mean difficult options.

Regarding foreign policy, Mr. Singh said India will not adopt any big brother attitude toward its small neighbors.

Party Officials on Lal Resignation Withdrawal

BK1803170490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] The three-day-old crisis in the National Front government has blown over with the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, agreeing to withdraw his resignation. Mr. Devi Lal's decision was announced at a crowded news conference in New Delhi this evening by senior Janata Dal leaders Mr. Chiman Bhai Patel and Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav. They said his decision is a sequel to the letter from the prime minister to Mr. Devi Lal.

In the letter, Mr. V.P. Singh said that people have given a clear mandate to the party to work together and not to fall apart. Describing Mr. Devi Lal as one of the main architects of the Janata Dal, the prime minister said insidious attempts are going on to sow seeds of dissension to bring down the government, which is functioning smoothly. Mr. Singh said this should not be allowed to succeed and as such taking an overall view he has not accepted Mr. Devi Lal's resignation from the cabinet.

Mr. Chiman Bhai Patel said that no condition has been attached to the withdrawal of the resignation by Mr. Devi Lal. He said the deputy prime minister has accepted the spirit reflected in Mr. V.P. Singh's letter. Mr. Patel said all the issues raised by Mr. Devi Lal in his letter to the prime minister regarding organizational matters will be sorted out in the political affairs committee.

The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, told our special correspondent Ratan Salve a short while ago that he took the decision in the larger interest of the Janata Dal and the nation, particularly in the context of the developing international situation. He said he is satisfied to a great extent with the letter from the prime minister, which touched upon most of the issues raised by him. Asked about contentious issues, Mr. Devi Lal said these are internal matters of the party and will be settled at appropriate fora.

Our correspondent says high-level political activities went on throughout the day with the National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, four Janata Dal chief ministers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, and Gujarat, several union ministers and leaders from other political parties having intensive discussions with Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Devi Lal. The central parliamentary board of the Janata Dal met this afternoon but left the question of resignation to senior leaders. Our correspondent adds that the prime minister has given a detailed reply to the points raised by Mr. Devi Lal in the letter.

About the Meham by-election, Mr. V.P. Singh said that he had himself told Mr. Ajit Singh twice that he should not have gone to the press. He said the party had requested a repoll in the constituency. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and left parties in the five-member Janata Dal panel had recommended change of leadership in Haryana. The prime minister said the best course will be to exercise our collective wisdom on the sensitive issue.

About the appointment of Mr. (Kapil Sibel) as additional solicitor general, Mr. V.P. Singh said a fresh view can be taken in the matter, though a decision on his appointment was made before Mr. Devi Lal brought certain facts to his notice. Observing that there seems to be some misunderstanding about the appointment of Mr. Ram Pujan Patel as president of the Uttar Pradesh Janata Dal, Mr. V.P. Singh said the five-member committee of the party made the appointment, but the matter could be reviewed in the political affairs committee, which is the final authority.

The prime minister referred to Mr. Devi Lal's suggestion for appointment of people with rural backgrounds to the judiciary and as ambassadors and said the procedure for appointment of judges is laid down by the law while merit is the criteria for diplomatic appointments. Mr. V.P. Singh said some of the new governors have rural backgrounds, but as 50 percent of the posts are to be earmarked for this category, the matter should be discussed in the cabinet.

Reacting to the developments, the National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said both the prime minister and the deputy prime minister were accommodative and everything has been set right. He said that the National Front secretariat would be reorganized soon to make it more effective.

2 Killed, 10 Injured in 'Group Clashes' in Delhi

BK1803062290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Retired chief justice of the Sikkim High Court, Mr. Justice M.S. Gujral, will conduct the judicial inquiry in yesterday's group clashes in the Nizamuddin area of south Delhi. Two persons were killed and 10 injured, including seven police personnel, in the clashes over construction of boundary wall of a cremation ground.

Meanwhile, the lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. Arjun Singh, has appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony. He also announced the compensation of 50,000 rupees to each of the next of kin of those killed and 10,000 rupees each to the injured.

The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has asked the Home Ministry to take all necessary steps to ensure that peace is maintained in the area. He has said that strict action should be taken against those found guilty.

1 Killed, 5 Injured in Delhi Bomb Explosion

BK1903064590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] One person was killed and five others injured today in a bomb explosion in the New Sabzimandi area of Azadpur in Northwest Delhi. According to police sources, the bomb was concealed in a heap of vegetables. The injured have been admitted to Hindurao hospital. Rescue operations are on, and the police have cordoned off the area.

Indian Airlines Suspends Kashmir Cargo Service

BK1703153890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 17 (AFP)—State-run Indian Airlines has banned cargo from its passenger flights to and from Kashmir to prevent bombings by Muslim militants campaigning against Indian control of this northern state. Federal intelligence officials here said the decision to stop carrying freight was taken earlier this week to prevent attempts by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which is spearheading the independence campaign, to blow up planes in midair. The airline has clamped bans on freight movement between New Delhi and Srinagar, summer capital of the disputed state and hub of the secessionist campaign, the officials said. Airline sources said a cargo ban on daily flights between New Delhi and Jammu, the state's Hindu-dominated winter capital, was also ordered following intelligence reports that militants were planning to smuggle time bombs in fake cargo consignments.

Western diplomats in New Delhi said the JKLF was also planning to hijack an Indian plane to draw world attention to their demand for a United Nations-supervised plebiscite in Pakistan.

The ban followed the arrival in Srinagar Tuesday of an elite team of anti-hijacking officers from New Delhi. Srinagar's airport complex is now under unprecedented security. All passengers, including senior Indian Army officers, are frisked at least seven times after entering the airport, while federal detectives search hand baggage for weapons and explosives.

JKLF sources, who were not immediately available for comment, have told journalists they would attack any Indian Government property.

Indian Airlines has closed its city office here and ordered most of its officers to leave for New Delhi.

Fernandes Arrives in Kashmir To Discuss Situation

BK1603150590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, who is also the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, arrived in Srinagar today. Mr. Ferandes met several people soon after his arrival. He will go to Jammu tomorrow to join members of the advisory committee for Kashmir affairs. Mr. Fernandes is expected to hold discussions with the state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, and senior officials on the situation in Kashmir Valley.

Senior Kashmir Government Official Shot Dead

BK2103012490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1836 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 20 (AFP)—Muslim militants shot dead three people, including a senior Jammu and Kashmir state government official, and wounded a civilian in a similar attack in Kashmir Valley Tuesday [20 March], police said.

Meanwhile, Indian Railway Minister George Fernandes, who is also in charge of Kashmir affairs, ended a two-day visit he undertook to personally study the situation created by the bloody militancy in the sensitive northern border state. At least at a few places during his tour of the valley, Muslim youths told Mr. Fernandes that "we want independence (from India), and a pelbiscite be held in Kashmir,"

political sources here said. Mr. Fernandes did not speak to the press before returning to the Indian capital.

Police said Muslim gunmen shot A.K. Raina, deputy director in the Jammu and Kashmir Food and Supplies Department, in his office in Srinagar's Shaheed Ganj area. Mr. Raina, 49, died instantly, and the assailants fled, the police said. They did not give details.

Militants shot dead two civilians in the valley's Anantnag Town, shortly after a curfew relaxed for the day was reimposed for the night, a state government spokesman said. He did not identify the two victims.

Elsewhere in the Muslim-dominated valley, militants battling for independence shot and critically wounded Mohammed Yusouf at Qazigunj township, some 60 kilometres (37 miles) from here. Mr. Yusouf, later hospitalised in critical condition, was attacked on suspicion that he was working as a police spy against the militancy, the police said in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital.

In another incident, a powerful bomb blast blamed on militants blew up a police jeep during a curfew break in Srinagar Tuesday, but no one was injured or killed, police said. They said some four more bombings were reported from elsewhere across the valley late Monday and Tuesday, but again without causing any casualties.

More than 200 people have died in militancy-linked violence so far this year in Jammu and Kashmir, mostly in the valley.

Punjab Border Residents To Receive ID Cards

BK2103013690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2349 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 20 (AFP)—New Delhi has decided to issue identity cards to residents of villages in Punjab on the border with Pakistan, in a bid to curb Sikh militancy in the northern state, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Tuesday [20 March]. The decision, taken after a review of the existing separatist-created situtation in Punjab at a "high level" meeting here Tuesday, was to facilitate detection of illegal entrants from across the border and launch a search for Sikh militants in the border districts, PTI said.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of aiding Sikh militants battling for an independent homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure in Punjab. Islamabad rejects the charge.

The reported decision came soon after Indian Home Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed returned from a visit to Punjab for a personal assessment of the situation created by the bloody campaign, which has left some 250 people dead so far this year.

'Terrorists' Kill 20 in Punjab Incidents

BK1903032090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have shot dead 20 persons in separate incidents, including 11 at one place and five at another, since last night. In Ferozepur District, terrorists struck at a place about 2.5 kilometers away from Talwandibhai from Zira Road and gunned down 11 persons early this morning.

In Amritsar District, in a similar action, terrorists shot dead a farmer, his three sons, and his son in law in Guru Kaku area of Tarn Taran town early this morning. The victims were sleeping in the house when attacked.

In Faridkot District, terrorists gunned down a member of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak; Sikh Temples Management Committee], Mr. Prem Singh, his bodyguard, and another person near the village of Darapur.

Oil Found in New Well in Krishna-Godavari Basin

BK0803083490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Oil has been located from yet another well drilled on the (Gaikalur) structure in the Krishna-Godavari basin. According to an official release issued in Madras today, the well, drilled to a depth of 2,155 meters, is yielding oil at the rate of 466 barrels and gas at the rate of 9,188 cubic meters a day. With this discovery, oil prospects in the Krishna subbasin have been very much brightened. Out of the 17 welis drilled so far in the Krishna subbasin, 12 have proved to be oil and gas bearing.

2 Powerful Radio Transmitters Inaugurated

BK0903163890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Two modern shortwave transmitters of 500-kw capacity each for beaming programs of the external services of All India Radio were commissioned today by the minister of information and broadcasting, Mr. P. Upendra, at (Bordabalapur) near Bangalore. The shortwave transmitters have been built at a cost of 16 crore rupees. This is the first time that such powerful transmitters have been commissioned for the All India Radio network, and are believed to be the largest available shortwave transmitters in the world. This will help All India Radio to enhance the efficacy of its external broadcasts and overcome the problem of interference. The objective of commissioning these transmitters is to reach listeners in the far-flung countries of Europe, North Africa, and Australia. Our Bangalore correspondent, Keshav Chandrika, reports that for the first time in the network, feeder line system interfacing the transmitters have been designed, fabricated, and erected by Indian engineers.

Iran

Mohtashemi Commentary on Hostage 'Rumors'

NC2103110290 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
10 Mar 90 pp 2, 20

[Commentary by Hojjat ol-Eslam va- Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi: "The White House: The Hearth of Terrorist Movements"]

[Text] During recent weeks, the issue of the Western and American hostages in Lebanon has once again raised a commotion among the Western and Zionist news and mass media and sparked off rumors. The modus operandi of arrogance has always been one of resorting to such propaganda every now and then in order to inflict political pressure on the Islamic revolution and the Lebanese Muslims. This does not mean that the West and America want a solution to the hostage issue. This is only a tactic in the strategy of arrogance in its confrontation with Islam. But this time a new element has been introduced, and that is an article which appeared in one of Iran's English-language papers. This was followed by a statement by 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in Beirut. Both of these further exacerbated the commotion caused by the arrogant mass media and led to the creation of a new atmosphere, in the country as well as abroad, with the result that more political pressure was imposed on the Islamic revolution and the Lebanese Muslims.

The gist of the matter is in that the West and America have built a big prison out of the countries of the Third World and the Islamic world, especially Lebanon and Palestine, and they have cast the oppressed nations of these countries into bondage. Thousands are being savagely murdered. And when these oppressed prisoners retaliate in order to defend their country, their supremacy, independence, and territorial integrity and take a few of their jailers hostage for a while so that they can achieve their just rights, the colonialist networks in the world start a commotion. Instead of the aggressive hegemonists being condemned, it is the oppressed of history who are condemned. The propaganda bombardment by the enemy is so intensive, and their hypocrisy and craftiness so extensive, that the righteous ones in this poisoned atmosphere of increasing political pressure sometimes give the wrong impression. The unanimity of Islamic circles and their own circles in the propaganda atmosphere of arrogance is tantamount to the acceptance of the legitimacy of the system of domination of America, the West, and Zionism over the world of Islam and the oppressed!

The question is: Why do the bullying hegemonists, world-devouring America, and those who imitate their policies fear the determination of their own fate by the Third World and especially the Muslim nations? The Muslim nations should know that on 5 June 1982, after the conquest of Khorramshahr, Israel attacked Lebanon with the official approval of the American Government and that in a matter of one week it advanced up to Beirut, which it then occupied. Following that, the UN Security Council accepted the arrival of NATO's multinational forces consisting of America, Britain, France, and Italy so that the security of the Israeli occupiers would be safeguarded. It was under such conditions that the world of arrogance took the first step toward paving the grounds of hostage-taking in Lebanon.

It should be noted that Beirut was under the security umbrella of NATO's multi-national forces, under the command of the U.S. marines, when four of the Islamic Republic's diplomats [as published] who were travelling in a car with Lebanese diplomatic plates and were accompanying Mr. Musavi, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic's embassy, arrived in Beirut. They stopped at an official checkpoint of Lebanon's Phalangist Party and were then taken hostage. This checkpoint was under the supervision and control of the American, French, and occupation forces. At that time the Phalangist Party, which had been set up by the French security system, was led by Pierre al-Jumayyil; its cadres had been trained in Israel and enjoyed constant American support. The Phalangist Party was formed on the basis of a racist ideology (the rule of the Maronites) as a system similar to that which prevails in South Africa and Israel. Almost eight years have passed since then; the so-called civilized world which defends human rights and the news media of the West and the East have remained silent on this. This was the first case of hostage-taking in Lebanon, and it was carried out by American elements. Furthermore, Israel in south Lebanon and Palestine has overtly set up prisons and torture camps like Ansar, 'Atlit, and dozens of other similar places. It seizes groups of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims and people of other nationalities who are in Lebanon and subjects them to the harshest tortures. All this is taking place in full view of the United Nations, the Red Cross, the Human Rights [Organization], Amnesty International, and the UN Security Council. Thousands of men and women, young and old, of Lebanese, Palestinian, and other nationalities remain the captives of the regime occupying Palestine inside the occupied territories. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is a clear example of this. He was kidnapped from his home by mercenary Zionist forces who attacked Jibshit by helicopter at night. This hostage-taking incident took place in an area which was under the security umbrella of the UN peacekeeping forces. The Israelis were able to penetrate dozens of kilometers through the UN forces and carry out this abduction. But the mass media of the West and the East and even the mass media of the Third World remained silent on this blatant crime by the occupying regime.

Now thousands of Muslims have been taken captive by the police and intelligence services of Western and American countries for having defended their rights and religious sanctities, and they are being kept in crusader and Zionist prisons.

People in Britain are thrown into prison because of the Salman Rushdie affair and the fact that they defend their

Islamic beliefs. Colored Muslims in the United States receive long prison terms or life sentences for having defended their rights. In France, several groups of European, Lebanese, Palestinian, Algerian, and other Muslims are arrested for fighting for their freedom and their most basic human rights, and for confronting the French government's anti-Islamic and inhuman acts. The world of Islam faces the same situation in Germany, Italy, and Spain.

It may be alleged that these groups were captured and taken hostage in the West because of a series of subversive and suicidal operations. On the one hand the Muslim nations see the enemy carry out acts of aggression against their cities, villages, and homes every day, and they see their cities, villages, and homes being shelled and their country being destroyed by artillery, tanks, navy, and aircraft. On the other hand, see how in 1984—following a car explosion after Friday prayers in Bi'r al-'Abd near the mosque of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, when 100 defenseless Muslim men, women and children were drenched in blood—the Lebanese Hizballah was able to uncover the American political terrorist organization network. The documents that were found revealed that America and the West were involved in dozens of terrorist operations against Muslims and Islamic dignitaries and in explosions and the massacre of defenseless people in West Beirut, Ba'labakk, and other Lebanese cities. After a period of silence America implied that the CIA network had been uncovered. In view of these, the question is: If these acts been committed by these people and by other Muslim nations out of their humanistic and religious duty and in order to deter the enemy in its savage crimes, would they not have been criticized? And if such acts are punishable by international forums, who should be punished? The main perpetrators—that is, America, Israel, and the Western governments—or the oppressed nations of Lebanon and Palestine?

The experience of the confrontation between the oppressed nations and their enemies proves the fact that the enemy has its own language and logic and that it should be spoken to and dealt with in the language and with the logic that it understands. Arrogance, America, and Zionism have always resorted to the logic of force, suppression, and captivity of nations and especially of the Islamic world, and experience has proven that the enemy stops its acts of mischief only if it faces retaliatory acts. A clear example of this is the retreat of Israel and NATO's multinational forces from Lebanon as a result of the laudable acts by Islamic resistance. In order to clarify the issue and ascertain the nature of the Western hostages in Lebanon, we should list a few points:

1. Terry Waite, bishop of Canterbury [as published], was involved in espionage for years for the intelligence service and the CIA, and his mediation in Lebanon was aimed at uncovering the Muslim and revolutionary groups.

2. Dodge [name as published], CIA member, worked in Lebanon under a diplomatic mask and was involved in identification operations and in the formation of terrorist networks in Lebanon.

3. Higgins, commander of the U.S. forces in South Lebanon, was operating within the framework of the UN peace-keeping forces. Higgins was among the higher echelons of the CIA and was involved in the identification of Islamic resistance and Hizballah forces in South Lebanon.

4. The two members of the Israeli forces were members of the Mosad.

Of course, it should be noted that the cadres of arrogance's security and intelligence services are valuable to their governments as long as they have not been identified. But who does not know that the propaganda pressures by the West and America against the Muslims, and their humanitarian gestures, are only for their own domestic consumption and not intended for a general solution of the hostages problem?

Now the alert people and the families of the hostages in the West have begun to exert pressure on their despotic regimes. The political-social impacts of this, if continued, will be more perceptible in the future. Instead of exerting pressure on the oppressed Muslims in Lebanon to free the mercenary American hostages, Western public opinion should seek the source of hostage- taking and terrorist movements in the White House and in the Western and American intelligence services, and strive to uproot this.

It is right that the Islamic groups in Lebanon and in Palestine—inspired by the Islamic Revolution led by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his grave be sanctified—have risen empty-handed and meekly in the past few years to confront the superpowers and the satanic camp of world blasphemy and have been able to disgrace them. And if in all this destiny-making process of the cold war of hostages they remain staunch as they have in the past, and do not give in to propaganda and political blackmail by the Western superpowers and America, they will definitely emerge victorious and will cut short the hand of the enemy from the fate of the Islamic country of Lebanon.

It should be noted that the sentence for espionage in the Islamic countries is execution. The truth is that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not been involved in any of the stages of hostage-taking in Lebanon, and the Muslim Lebanese forces have acted on the basis of what they have discerned as expedient and in the interests of their country.

The Islamic Republic cannot and should not impose its policies and supervision on other Muslim nations. But freeing the hostages is like breaking the chains holding bloodthirsty wolves.

On this basis, as pointed out repeatedly by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the enemies of Islam—both in the East and the West, and headed by America—should stop their rancorous stand and plots against the Islamic ummah throughout the world and come to their senses. It is only then that the Muslim nations will cease to witness the direct and indirect intervention by the arrogance governments and America in their countries, which is more than ever on the increase today. There is no other alternative but struggle and jihad until the final defeat of the enemy or the blessing of martyrdom.

In conclusion, let us remember the stand of our dear late imam who stated: Dear God, you know that arrogance and world-devouring America have plucked the petals off the flowers in Your garden. Dear God, you know that we will not come to terms with blasphemy.

With the hope that the oppressed will win over the oppressors.

'Hardline Circles' Postpone Hostage Solution

LD2003163290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers
in Persian 0230 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' came to Tehran for a two-day official visit. The trip took place mainly in connection with the issues of Lebanon and particularly for solving the problem of the Western hostages in Lebanon. In this same connection, the deputy foreign minister of the regime, Beshrati, while stating earlier that today the chance of the hostages' release is stronger than ever before, had declared his regime's readiness to solve the problem of the hostages.

Some news agencies reported that last week several leaders of the Lebanese extremist factions, which support the Iranian regime, came to Tehran in order to solve the said problem. But the hardline circles of the regime succeeded in postponing for the time being the definite and final solution of the hostages' problem.

Editorial on Hostages

NC1503213990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 6 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Multipurpose Propaganda"]

[Text] From the very start, the world of arrogance has regarded the phenomenon of the Islamic revolution as a "serious threat," and its stand on the revolution has stemmed from precisely this viewpoint. This point is clearly proven by the history of the recent decade's incidents and especially by those after the victory of the Islamic revolution. Naturally, there is no need to prove this point by going into a discussion.

The victory of the Islamic revolution upset all the criteria and calculations of arrogance about the world of Islam or, at least, it inflicted serious and decisive blows on them. Therefore, we have inflicted wounds on them, and their illegal interests have been threatened. No one can doubt this. Therefore, it is not necessary to spend more time on trying to prove this point.

What can the enemies of the Islamic revolution do to confront the great methods of the world movement of Islam? In answer to this, arrogance has concentrated on two specific points and has capitalized on them:

1. Preventing the Islamic revolution's expansion and trying to harness it within the boundaries of Iran;

2. Preventing the success of the revolution, even inside the boundaries of Iran.

Even though arrogance has resorted to the most savage means in order to achieve both these objectives, experience has nevertheless shown that with the alertness of the forces faithful to the revolution, the enemy's efforts toward both objectives can be completely defeated. Our success in this will stem from the alertness of the forces of the revolution and our determination to thwart the plots of the enemy. Naturally, the first step toward this will be to discover the enemy's objectives so we can make the necessary preparations to confront them.

The issue is very clear. We are the forerunners of a great movement in the contemporary world. We have many agreeable things to say to the world. All those who have not shown spite toward our revolution and have adopted a logical stand have been able to hear and to accept what we have to say about the world's problems. This is a source of worry for the revolution's enemies. They cannot say anything against this logical situation, and it is because of this that we have seen the revolution become a target of the anti-human approaches and venomous propaganda of the enemies of Islam.

The concentrated efforts by the enemies of the revolution have been primarily aimed at making the forces of the revolution lose their "psychological balance" and at replacing "resoluteness" with "doubt and indecision." This has been and is the main policy of arrogance in its approach to the Islamic revolution. However, throughout the past years the forces of the revolution have been able—through firm, logical, and calculated stands—to minimize the effects of the enemy's sly stands.

These days, the mass media of arrogance is trying—each source in its own way—to portray the old issue of the Western hostages in Beirut in a new form and to link this issue once again to the Islamic Republic of Iran. One newspaper reports on indirect talks between Iran and the United States. Another newspaper claims that direct talks are being carried out. One newspaper names Geneva as the venue of the talks, while another reports on five rounds of talks in Germany.

This is an effort with several purposes through which the enemy is trying to pursue specific objectives: To portray Iran once again to the outside world as a terrorist country and the mentor of terrorism; by intimating that

talks are being held with the United States, to create mistrust inside Iran; and, on the whole, to create a poisonous and propaganda-filled atmosphere against the Islamic revolution and Republic.

Under such conditions, the mass media of the Islamic Republic logically have more sensitive responsibilities on their shoulders. Not useful, but harmful are one author's directives on post-hostage problems and another author's passive attitude. Moreover, the infiltrators want to complete their mission and, by spreading pessimism toward the government and officials, to pave the way for America's entry, in the long run, by charting another course.

Over the past 10 years, the United States and its mercenaries have impudently tried to portray the genuine followers of the Islamic revolution throuhout the world as terrorists. But the more they have tried, the more they have been disgraced. Naturally, under such conditions, when Washington sees all its organized efforts toward this being defeated, those in the country's press who try to somehow relate the issue of the hostages in Lebanon to relations between Iran and the United States and who offer guidelines in this connection, are, if not mercenaries, certainly people who do not know what they are doing and saying.

Arrogance and its mercenaries want to harm the officials of the system and, specifically, of the government in the eyes of the nation. The enemies of Islam have realized with bitterness that they have only one hope—to spread mistrust among the people about the current government. And it is not in the interest of the country or of the system for there to be people who join in unison with the loudspeakers of arrogance and say exactly what the Voice of America favors, even though this may reveal the footprints of the infiltrators.

Editorial Decries Enemies' 'Spiteful Plots'

NC1503214290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Weapon of Rumors"]

[Excerpts] A nation and a revolution will definitely make enemies on the path to its objectives. But if it is able to identify these enemies and to act against them in time, then it will be able to thwart the spiteful plots of its enemies and reduce their impact as much as possible.

Regardless of its strength, the enemy is weak and doomed to defeat when faced with the invincible strength of a nation, if this nation acts alertly and always thinks of ways to block the enemy's infiltration and exploitation.

Everyone knows that the Iranian nation is the best example of this. It is a striving, brave, selfless, martyr-nurturing, alert, and revolutionary nation which has demonstrated with its actions that it has passed its test in a way that inspires awe and which has—as confessed by both its friends and foes—correctly chosen its objectives and is striving to achieve them. [passage omitted]

It is a nation that has started a tempest and tempestuous waves with the awakening of nations throughout the world. It has destroyed the glass castles of the oppressors of contemporary history and has made them the target of its strong attacks.

Such a nation undoubtedly must have raging and spiteful enemies. Such a nation has undoubtedly created a great rage in the spiteful hearts of the enemies of Islam. And such a nation should undoubtedly know that the enemies of mankind will try to fight its grandeur. [passage omitted]

The auspicious Fajr [Dawn] ceremonies prove the grandeur of the nation and the revolution and disappoint the enemies of mankind each year. However, this time the Fajr ceremonies and especially the auspicious march on 11 February [the anniversary of the revolution] had a stronger and deeper impact than in the past.

The enemies of the revolution hoped that 11 February this year would have a smaller turnout of people. But the people were alert and disappointed the enemy. [passage omitted]

However, a few days later, after a sports event was cancelled and because of sports officials were inefficient, an incident took place which a bunch of ruffians tried to exploit. This incident has now become the focal point of the arrogant mass media. This at a time when thousands of sports incidents have occurred throughout the world and which have sometimes resulted in deaths. Arrogance and its mercenaries try to resort to any possible means in order to portray the incident as unexpected, even if it involved sports, so that they can spread their venom against the revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic. Naturally, the enemy will try to make such allegations in order to give vent to its pent-up hostility against the revolution. [passage omitted]

The people have amassed priceless experiences in this. They hae learned not to listen to rumors and not to believe anything until they are sure. The nation has realized the depth of the hatred that lies in the propaganda by the enemies of Islam. It knows what their objectives are and knows the extent of their insistence to spread mistrust and doubts among the people. The nation knows that it can stop rumors by acting decisively against those who spread them. The experience it has gained throughout the revolution has taught it that since rumors are based on lies, they die down if ignored. The revolutionary forces should act alertly against the rumors this time too and prove, once again, that the "weapon of rumors" is so weak that it cannot harm the determination of a revolutionary nation in safeguarding the lofty values of its revolution.

Khamene'i Delivers New Year's Message

LD2003225490 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Wednesday morning congratulated the Iranian people on the occasion of the new solar Hijra year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], and expressed hope that as nature starts a new cycle at the spring equinox so, too, will the people start a new lease of life by purging their minds of all impurities.

Ayatollah Khamene'i whose message was broadcast the moment the new calendar started at 00.40 hours 49 seconds Tehran time Wednesday, paid tribute the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni, whose absence is being deeply felt for the first time at Nowruz.

However, he reminded that the tradition and the path set forth by [the] man who founded the first ever Islamic Republic, will be the road to tread for all time in the future.

The leader told the nation that the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, woke up people in other parts of the world and gave a fresh appeal to moral values.

He also advised the people and especially all persons shouldering responsibility to review their performance in the past year with a view to ending the rule of the satan in their deeds, and repent for their past wrongdoings, especially so in view of the approach of fasting Ramadan, the month of divine mercy and glory.

In passing, the ayatollah addressed the elements who might have stood against the Islamic Republic, to reconcile with the system if they have conscience, and tread the path of Allah and the course of the ruling system in the country which, he said, is based on the holy Koran and divine dictates.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers New Year Message

LD2103103590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 2120 GMT 20 Mar 90

[New Year's message by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God and greetings to the Prophet of God and his progeny. "God does not alter the condition of a nation until they change their own condition by themselves." [Koranic verse] Greetings to our dear and noble nation and to our esteemed leader on the occasion of the start of the new year. We hope that in the coming year we will be able to tread the path of God, the path of the revolution, and the path set forth for us by his eminence the imam.

Before everything else, we should say that this year we miss the blessed presence of his eminence the imam in our midst and among the Islamic nations, and this is a loss which we experience in our ceremonies this year. We send our greetings to the dear and exalted spirit of the leader of Islam and the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, and we pray for the happiness of the pure souls of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution, for the well-being and return of the POW's, for the return of the missing in action, and for patience and forebearance for the disabled and the families of the martyrs, POW's, and the missing in action.

My general evaluation of the condition of the revolution is quite positive. Thanks be to God, the revolution is progressing along its defined path and toward its certain goals at appropriate speed, in the same way which was desired by our beloved imam. Islamic movements are growing in the world, and the signs of the stability of solidarity of the Islamic republic are quite clear to us, the people of the world, and Muslim observers. The signs of stability in the country can be felt in the hearts of our dear nation. We could see signs of this in the ceremonies of marches on 11 February, and before that in the ceremonies held on the occasion of the passing of the imam. We witnessed the presence of our people on the stage, just as in the first days of the revolution.

Abroad, on the international stage, those countries which until recently for various reasons did not have any inclination to cooperate with us, are now racing against each other to cooperate with us.

Those who have been left behind the doors and are not accepted by the Islamic Republic, like America and England, have a feeling of loss and regret, the last sign of which our nation witnessed in the recent political fiasco in the White House, in the strange issue of the telephone call. Whether the White House was deceived or even if we imagine that it started an initiative which failed, in both cases we see the signs of their need for the Islamic Republifc and their desire for the Islamic Republic to glance toward them. At the same time, it is a sign of our lack of need for them; and this was in conditions when this side—namely us—were completely unaware of anything, while they were in those conditions which they have confessed.

Thank God, the Islamic movement is growing in the world. We can see clear signs of the movement of Muslims. The defeat under present conditions of Marxism, which constitute an atheistic movement against divine religions, can be a good sign for us, because it demonstrates that the day for the movement of heavenly religions and divine forces has arrived.

When we look at the issues of the past year, the great loss which we experienced was the demise of his eminence the imam of the ummah, the founder of the Islamic Republic, which was a tragic and irreparable loss for us. The positive points were the safeguarding of the unity and solidarity of our nation in the absence of his eminence the imam of the ummah, something which was desired by him; as well as the replacement of the leadership in the best possible form, something which many

people imagined would never be successfully implemented in Iran. This was also achieved as the result of the sagacity of his eminence the imam and his timely efforts to prepare the ground, which was the completion of his mission and his responsibilities. He confirmed the foundations of the revolution through the guidance he provided us on the choice of the leader. Another achievement was the amendment of the constitution, which was a major task, and this too we owe to the imam of the ummah. Another point was the drawing up and the approval of the Five-Year Plan, and this was the first time since the revolution that this was done. We also saw the start of the implementation of the Five-Year Plan as the result of the preparations made by the government, and the first budget on the basis of the Five-Year Plan was prepared; thanks to God, it was also approved by the Majles.

In making preparations for the implementation of the Five-Year Plan we succeeded in our choice of the proper cultural, political, and economic moves. A start has been made. In making the preparations we succeeded in activating a considerable part of our productive centers. This year, in the past two or three months, we have given about $2 billion of foreign exchange to industries whose results will be certainly made clear in the coming year. We have succeeded in attracting a considerable part of the cash in the private sector, and this year for the first time we have had no need to print new notes on the eve of the new year, and the banks are in a very good situation. All the economic indicators have been positive. We succeeded in reducing the fast rate of inflation. God willing, next year this rate of reduction will be increased and gradually we will achieve a balance. This year divine blessing was vouchsafed to us. There was plentiful rain in nearly all parts of the country, and this divine bounty will show its results next year.

Next year we will continue our announced policies. As for the provision of human resources, we should pay special attention to the universities, and especially to the teaching staff and to research. In the economic field, our most important task is the implementation of the plan. In the government we are determined and completely resolved to implement this plan carefully. May God bestow success upon us, because if we can implement it we will have great success in the advancement of the country. We hope that our factories and all our agricultural and handicraft centers will be able to function at their full capacity as the result of the support we have provided them, and with the foreign exchange which we have put at their disposal. If this is achieved, one of its results will be to create a balance to some extent in the level of supply and demand in the market; because for many of our needs we have the productive capacity inside the country. Fortunately, with the plans which we have made, we have freed the importation of those things which cannot be found inside the country, and at the moment we are providing foreign exchange to the government and private sectors so that they can import such commodities.

The start of implementing the announcement on prices of various commodities, which began a few days ago, will be further speeded up in coming days. What you see now is on a voluntary basis. The prices are not imposed. The factories are announcing their prices by taking into consideraiton their costs on the basis of free or competitive foreign exchange. You see that the announced prices are much lower than many of the prices in the free market. For instance, profiles, pipes, aluminium, and many household goods which have been announced and hundreds of consumer items which will be gradually announced are normally between 50 and 20 percent less than the open market; and these are voluntary prices. God willing, as the situation becomes more normal we will be able to provide them with cheaper foreign exchange in future years so that they can further reduce the prices or increase production.

As for the confidence of the people, I have a positive feeling. The private sector has shown its confidence. Funds have been returned to the banks. This year the banks' funds have increased and people's deposits in the banks have increased, and the amount of cash in people's hands has been reduced. The stock market is becoming active and the people are showing interest in purchasing the shares of factories. God willing, more factories will join the stock market. One of the signs of the people's trust in the future and current policies is that until the beginning of last year we witnessed a flight of capital, but since the beginning of the past year we have seen a gradual return of capital. Statistics show this clearly. Regarding the importation of goods not at government foreign exchange rate but at the free foreign exchange rate which is at the disposal of the people—in our new program such goods that have already been ordered and registered and for which licenses have been obtained amount to more than $2 billion [sentence as heard]. Some $800 million have already been imported and cleared through the customs, and the rest is either on the way or in the customs, while the foreign exchange which we have given to the people which is in the hands of the people is less than $300 million [sentence as heard]. This shows that the foreign exchange which was outside government control is returning to the country. All this is in addition to the goods imported by travellers or through Kish [free port] or through illegal means. This clearly shows that the people have confidence in the policies and that there is movement in the commercial and economic fields. We hope to be able to create a balance in the market next year to some extent. Of course, it will require a longer time. Our nation knows that we need a longer time. God willing, at the end of the first Five-Year Plan we will witness sufficient balance.

Mother industries are gradually becoming active. In the coming year we will produce nearly 2.5 million tonnes of steel, which is a considerable figure compared to 3.5 million tonnes of consumption. We attach a great deal of importance to the petrochemical industry and other mother industries. We hope that the rate of growth in the

agricultural sector next year will be at a desirable level. We will try to achieve self-sufficiency mainly through this route.

We will seriously pursue the policy of people's participation in the country's affairs, in production and distribution, domestic and foreign trade, and exploitation of resources. We expect the people to be active in this direction. One of the crucial policies of the Five-Year Plan is to boost exports. We plan to remove the obstacles to exports and make things easier for those who wish to export. For this purpose I ask the executive systems to cooperate wholeheartedly with those people who strive along this path. At the same time, one of the serious tasks that we plan to pursue, and we have already taken the priliminary steps, is to reform the administrative system and to reduce the bureaucracy. While thanking the state employees for their hard work and for putting up with the shortages with their low salaries, we expect them to behave in such a way as to satisfy our people, who are the main backers of this system. If they are facing some problems in implementation of their duty, they should let us know so that we can eliminate their problems.

The government's policy is to carry on subsidizing the previously subsidized commodities for the time being, so as to prevent hardship for the people. We plan to pay greater attention to the civil servants, the employees who rely on monthly salaries. We plan to raise their salaries because they, more than others, have been short of things in this period. We plan to look after the deprived strata by creating a balance in the market and by offering an abundant supply of essential commodities; and we plan to adjust the market's balance in this way. Of course, the response against economic and political saboteurs will be serious. It is not acceptable to put up with sabotage at a time when the country is moving toward reconstruction.

The reconstruction of the war-stricken areas will be seriously pursued, of course by bearing in mind our circumstances and the fate of the resolution [UN Resolution 598]. We will however pursue the task seriously within the constraints of the approve budget. And in the search for peace, we seriously ask for the implementation of the resolution in order to secure a lasting peace. We hope our opposing side will come to his senses too; and we hope the world will also take care that this region is not beset with troubles.

The moral and cultural issues in our country are part of the original aspirations of the revolution and we cannot abandon them. I expect those who have not yet adjusted themselves with the culture of morality in Islam to try and improve this matter. At the present the system is obliged to be more serious with them. But I prefer to see the individuals are thinking to improve themselves, particularly because this year the holy month of Ramadan start a week after the new year. This is the month of self-purification. One must take this opportunity to purify mind and soul.

I advise those who are against the revolution to pay some attention to the revolution now and return to the embrace of the revolution, repent, and joint voices with the nation. You saw all the wicked deeds did not achieve anything. Do not create troubles for yourselves and the people; it is pointless. Those who are outside the country without any reason, we are worried for them in case they lose morally by living outside the Islamic environment. We invite them to come back to their own country to be with their own people and families. They should not worry that their absence will be viewed as a dossier against them.

Our expectation from our people is to continue their cooperation with the government, to remain steadfast in following his holiness the imam's path and the aspirations of the revolution, and to economize in their spending until we succeed in creating a balance. And for our armed forces, to whom we are greatly indebted, we expect them to maintain their vigilance. And we in return, while striving for peace, will not refrain from strengthening our defense capabilities. A considerable portion of the budget has been allocated to the Armed Forces, for the sake of our defensive capability. And we beseech Almighty God to grant his divine mercy upon this nation, which has offered so many sacrifices and has shown so much devotion to His path. May Almighty God help keep this nation tolerant and patient, as in the past, so that we can continue God's path, which will please the lord of the age and our late imam. May God's peace and benedictions be upon you all.

Khamene'i Receives Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Others

LD2103143990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as we announced at the beginning of the bulletin, on the first day of the new year, the president, the head of the Judiciary, the Majles speaker, members of the Council of Guardians, members of the Expediency discernment Council, the Majles deputies, judiciary officials, the vice president, and members of the Cabinet were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution , so as to extent their felicitations to the esteemed leader on the start of the new year. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [President Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God, the Prophet of God and his scion. I express my felicitations for the New Year, to our dear and esteemed leader, on behalf of all present, and the Islamic Republic's officials. [passage omitted] I hope that the new year will be a fruitful year and one which strives for the attainment of the goals of the Islamic revolution, under the shadow of the leadership of our great leader, the efforts of our officials, and the support of the self-sacrificing ummah, as is expected of us by the blessed spirit of his eminence the imam of the ummah.

Today, our nation is under the shadow of the leadership of one of the most sincere pupils of his eminence the

imam of the ummah, and the path of leadership and movement of the Islamic ummah toward the achievement of its goals is continuing just as the blessed heart of the imam wished and graciously guided us. [passage omitted]

Our nation is carrying out it tasks in solidarity, under the shadow of the vice regency of the jurisconsult and the Koranic instructions, under the shadow of a state which belongs to the lord of the age and the remnant of God.

Praise be to God, today—as the last draft bill passed through the Majles and can see a clear-cut plan and budget, and a clear-cut path and task. All executive officials have joined forces to fulfill the path of perfection and all the goals and aspirations of this revolution, and praise to be God, the present world conditions are ripe for this collossal Islamic movement. We hope that today we will be able to stake with us a token from the guidances of our esteemed leader. May God's blessing be upon you. [crowd chants in support]

[Ayatollah Khemene'i] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I likewise extend my felicitations on this auspicious feast to the honorable gentlemen, the entire Iranian nation, Iranians resident in various parts of the world, and the rest of the Muslims—specifically those reawakened Soviet Azerbaijani Muslims who are also celebrating this New Year. I hope that this feast and this spring will herald further progress, auspicious days, and prosperity for our Muslim nation; a self-sacrificing, devoted and sincere nation who truly deserve the increasing divine blessings.

The important things are our actions and intentions. The New Year means and has always meant a new day and a new condition. [passage omitted] It refers to any day which has been rejuvenated through your actions, or the occurrence of an event such as 11 February when the Iranian nation, with God's assistance, accomplished a great phenomenon. That was a new day, the day on which the imam of the ummah struck a massive and decisive blow against the mouth of the world's great bully, America. It was a new day, a new path, a new phenomenon. It is up to us to make new days. From the viewpoint of nature it is just a new day, while from a humanistic viewpoint the new day is what we ourselves make it. [passage omitted]

One should not forget one's link with God; all we have we owe to this link. It is this link which gives us the courage not to be afraid of hostilities. It is this link with God which fills our hearts with love for the believers and those who are seeking the path of God, so that we overlook our differences in taste and opinion. It is this link with God which prevents us from trampling on justice just to please our desires. [passage omitted]

This year our new year can be truly a new day—not only the beginning of a new day in nature, rather a new day for us, our mind, our body, and our behavior. And this is very important today. Today the eyes of the world are on us. The world is watching us, watching this nation. Millions of hearts are throbbing for the sake of this nation and its objectives. You have become an example. You have become the pioneers of the people's martyrdom. You have become the standard-bearers of freedom and steadfastness in the face of bullying of the oppressive and arrogant global powers.

Today the nations dare to say they do not wish to be under the burden of major powers. There were days when the nations lacked such courage. They were not allowed to. You opened the way. This nation gave courage to the world. It was the behavior of this nation, combined with the decisiveness and strong guidance of that divine imam and that unique leader, who opened the way and encouraged the nations and humiliated the arrogance. It became clear that the people and the nations possess power.

They ignored the nations' inherent power. They appointed some incompetent leaders for each country and put them in charge of the nations' fate; and these leaders were puppets in the hands of global powers.

Today things are different: It is not as though nations do not understand their inherent powers. They have awakened. Of course, in terms of apparent strength, today arrogance is very strong. In apparent terms, in the arena of politics and economic, the United States has become very strong and large. But to the same proportion, it has become more vulnerable and hollow and, in reality, it is more scared and fearful of the power of nations. It is this nation which has familiarized the world, in this manner, with their duties and their rights.

The burden of this responsibility is on your shoulders; especially the officials. We should sense this heavy responsibility resting on our shoulders. The responsibility of finalizing this heavy burden. We should not be negligent for a moment. We should not tolerate negativeness, despondency, and depression in connection with ourselves or with others. We should move forward with hope just as the horizon is filled with hope. Everything is a sign of hope. And today, our circumstances, with the resources at our disposal, are very good circumstances.

Thanks to God, we have a strong government—and this too is among the favors granted to us by the Almighty, that at the head of the government stands a scholar, a jurisconsult, an experienced struggler, a familiar and beloved face, a tested person who was always approved of and loved by the imam, along with good colleagues, a firm and hope-inspiring program, which has the general support of the people. [slogan chanting]

And, thanks to God, a Majles that is awake and alert, responsible, totally free from the influences of global conspiracies, and independent. This is a highly valuable state of affairs. It is at our disposal; it is at the disposal of our nation.

It is enough for us to act in good faith and with sincerity. We should work for God. The imam also taught us that actions and deeds are not for the sake of results; results

are within that pure intention and faith with which you carry out your deeds. The outcome lies with God. We have to perform our duties. Fortunately, performing our duties in the course of these 11 years have had their effects. Today, we have officials, a nation is are more aware, alert, efficient, and experienced, and we can go forward. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Border With Soviet Union Opened for New Year

LD2103132390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Finally, after 73 years, this morning, Jolfa's Pol-e Chubi Gate opened to the border dwellers of Iran and the Soviet Union, and on the first day of the new year, the families living on both sides of the Aras banks met each other for the first time in their lives. The correspondent of the Central News Unit reports form Jolfa:

[Begin correspondent recording] In the early hours of this morning, the first hours of the new year, finally, after 73 years of waiting, the Pol-e Chubi Gate of Jolfa was thrown open to the border inhabitants of the border strips of Iran and the Soviet Republic of Nakhjavan, and the families living on both sides of the Aras River, tears streaming down their faces from excitement, hugged each other for the first time in their lives.

During the ceremonies staged in this connection beside the Aras River, attended by the Friday prayers leader of Jolfa along with other local officials, the inhabitants of Iran's Jolfa went forward to meet their guests with bouquets of flowers, sweets, and sherbet, welcomed their visitors offering them sweets and sherbet, and presented them with Korans and postcards of holy places. In interviews with the Central News Unit correspondent, they said that this was an unforgettable day in their lives and praised the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for having established this link. After arriving in Jolfa, they boarded waiting buses, minibuses, and cars and set off to visit their families in other cities and villages along the border strip of Iran. It is worth mentioning that this coming and going, on the occasion of the new year, will continue for another three days. By mutual agreement, those living within a distance of 45 km from the borders of Iran and the Soviet Union will be meeting their relatives on each others' territories. [end recording]

Also, according to responsible officials, the prediction is that 1,000 Muslim Soviet Azerbaijanis will be the guests of the inhabitants of Iran's Astara today. The report of the Central News Unit from Rasht states: The coming and going of the citizens of Iran and the Soviet Union was reviewed yesterday at a meeting at which the border guards of the two countries were present. It was decided that, on the occasion of the new year, the inhabitants and dwellers of border towns and villages of the two countries could cross the border to visit their relatives. On the basis of the decisions taken, the inhabitants of the border towns of the two countries can, by obtaining a pass, remain in the territories of the two countries from 0800 to 1200 in the mornings and from 1400 to 1800 in the afternoons. Meanwhile, in order to prepare the necessary facilities for the inhabitants of Astara who intend to travel to the Soviet Union, a special headquarters has been set up in Astara township, to be responsible for issuing the exit passes. In this connection, up to now 20 of Astara's inhabitants have applied to the headquarters to obtain exist passes.

The condition of exit for those Iranians who intend to go to the Soviet Union is to have an invitation letter from their relatives in Soviet Azarbaijan and to present their identity and economic basij ration cards. On the basis of this report, also, in order to receive the guests from Soviet Azerbaijan, in addition to the stationing of Red Crescent units and groups from the regional organisation of health and treatment of Gilan Province, a special pavilion with 12 shops has been installed in Astara township and the local factories will be presenting their products. Moreover, the Red Crescent Society, Astara branch, will be presenting holy Korans, the Nahj ol-Balagheh [text attributed to Imam 'Ali], and other religious texts to the Soviet Azerbaijani guests.

Soviet Muslims Visit Republic

LD2103173290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] A large number of Muslims from Soviet Azerbaijan, who had been in Iran since this morning having arrived via the border bridge at Astara customs, returned to their country after meeting with relatives and performing New Year visitation ceremonies. According to the Central News Unit's Astara correspondent, the Muslim guests from Soviet Azerbaijan arrived in Iran having adhered to all the legal requirements and having obtained a special three- day pass.

According to this report, the Muslims from Soviet Azerbaijan are standing in relatively long lines across the border in the Soviet part of the township of Astara, waiting to obtain passes to cross the border to travel to Iran.

In the meantime, a number of Muslim people of the Iranian part of Astara also have obtained travel passes and have entered Soviet territory to visit their relatives during the New Year period.

Khamene'i Pardons 119 in Honor of New Year

LD1803150390 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—Some 119 convicts of the Islamic revolutionary courts in four cities have been pardoned or their sentences commuted on the orders of leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, it was announced here Sunday.

The pardon came after a request was made by judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi Saturday on the occasion of the Iranian New Year to be celebrated March 21.

The 11th paragraph of Article 110 of the constitutional law bestows the leader with the authority to pardon condemned persons or commute their sentences in accordance with the principles of the Islamic faith and upon recommendation of the head of the judiciary branch.

Those pardoned are from Tehran, Isfahan, Bandar Abbas (Hormuzgan Province) and Gorgan (Mazandaran Province).

Another batch of 143 prisoners from nine cities were pardoned or their sentences commuted on March 13 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the 12th imam of the household of Prophet Mohammad.

President Addresses Martyr Foundation Officials

LD1603111990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Revolution's Martyr Foundation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a gathering today of headmasters of schools for children of martyrs from throughout the country, members of headquarters in charge of planning for cultural affairs of children of martyrs, officials from provincial cultural units of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation, and experts and teachers of schools for children of martyrs, said the education and training of children of martyrs, MIA's, POW's and the disabled—some of the best people in society—will pave the way for suitable management of the country in the future. One of the very important and fundamental works concerns a move which was started by the foundation of schools for the children of martyrs, and in future, too, with the university for children of martyrs starting its work will continue with inspiration from the progressive ideas of his holiness the imam—may God accept him to His paradise.

The chairman of the Council of Cultural Revolution stressed the need to raise the scientific level and create educational facilities for pious individuals, the deprived, and the oppressed. He said that today a healthy course exists in general throughout the country, and all education centers are making endeavors to train healthy individuals. It is expected that in future society will move toward moral soundness.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the establishment of privately owned schools according to the order and opinion of his holiness the imam. He added that such schools will utilize public resources in the service of science and education, and we hope that through the utilization of such means, those schools will be able to provide better quality of education for science and education enthusiasts. He also paid tribute to the selflessness of the martyrs, adding that if anyone is to manage the affairs of the country in the future, the children of martyrs are the best and most suitable strata for that job.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the audience and said that the establishment of schools for children of martyrs is a very positive move, resulting from an inspiration coming from the hidden universe which echoed in the heart of the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

According to the same report, in that meeting the Martyr Foundation deputy in charge of cultural and international affairs presented a short report about the creation of the Foundation's cultural facilities, as well as about the foundation's performance during the last 10 years in social and cultural fields.

*Khamene'i Said To Seek Revolution Guards' Aid

90OI0211C London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] A week after Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i praised the army infantry commanders and asked them to place more importance on protecting the government than on protecting the nation's borders, in another meeting he called with the revolutionary guard infantry commanders he also warned them to be more prepared to go to "areas whose existence is necessary" and to be prepared for a comprehensive defense of the aspirations of the revolution.

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said: "All the Armed Forces, the military, the police, as well as the powerful forces of the mobilization, must maintain their readiness for comprehensive defense of the gains and aspirations of the revolution, and this is an order that all the armed forces commanders must treat as an important obligation."

Stressing the important role of the revolutionary guard ground forces, Khamene'i said: "The Ground Forces, especially in the revolutionary guard, have a special role, and the importance of such a force is doubled today and its obligations are quite important and clear. The Ground Forces must maintain greater readiness for combat, training, and presence in areas whose existence is necessary."

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said these things in the presence of commanders of the Air, Infantry, and Naval Forces of the revolutionary guard. It is the view of those familiar with conditions in Iran that the reason for Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's reliance on the Ground Forces of the Army and the revolutionary guard is that he thinks he can send them into the streets to put down a popular rebellion, while the Naval and Air Forces cannot be relied on for this purpose.

In his statements to the revolutionary guard Ground Forces commanders, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said nothing about their presence at the war fronts or defense of the nation's borders. His emphasis on "areas whose existence is necessary" shows that Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has something in mind other than the fronts and the borders, and that he is thinking of the cities, areas inside the country, and confrontation with the people in the crises to come.

*Revolution Guards Offers Military Consultants

90OI0211D London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Last week the revolutionary guard of the Islamic revolution announced that it is prepared to send its military consultants to give help and guidance to foreign countries. This was announced by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's deputy representative in the revolutionary guard.

He emphasized that revolutionary guard military consultants would be sent to help liberation movements, because:

It is the legal obligation of the revolutionary guard to support liberation movements, and it will act on that obligation.

This person added: Arrangements have been made within the organization of the revolutionary guard to this effect which have been submitted to the leadership for approval.

This revolutionary guard official's clear emphasis on sending military consultants to help liberation fronts, and on the fact that this is a legal obligation for the revolutionary guard, shows that the regime, despite its apparent claims, is still planning to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

Commentary Criticizes Azari-Qomi's Remarks

NC1803140590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Feb 90 p 2

[Unattributed political commentary: "The Absolute Vali-ye Faqih—Instrument of Unity or Means of Discord?"]

[Excerpts] "Some people think that the Vali-ye Faqih and the Islamic government have a right to distort the law and can, for example, entrust it to the Islamic Majles, since in their opinion the laws approved in the Islamic Majles are tantamount to divine laws. This will not be accepted by any Shiite Faqih who has studied Fiqh and its principles, and the seminaries are also aware that this is wrong as far as Shiism is concerned."

"In view of the fact that the Vali-ye Faqih can retract certain injunctions within the framework of diagnosing "a need," it is clear that without such a diagnosis, which should not cause any inconvenience or damage to Muslims or major losses to Islam and the Muslims, it is not possible to issue any injunctions."

Perhaps you will not believe that the above remarks, clearly negating the concept of the "absoluteness of the Velayat-e Faqih," [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult] are the writings of Ayatollah Azari-Qomi during the lifetime of his eminence the imam, and who ostensibly is endeavoring to erect imaginary boundaries under the labels of the proponents of the absoluteness of the Velayat-e Faqih and its opponents. Thus the loyal forces of the revolution who are faithful to the Velayat-e Faqih are being dragged into the maelstrom of an escalating controversy. Who knows who will be responsible for the consequences!

This is not a new tactic. Some years ago, he had done the same by pioneering similar trend. He had created similar boundaries between protagonists of the jurisprudence and of other schools of jurisprudence and thus dragged a large section of the sincere forces devoted to the imam and the revolution toward isolation by using the tactic of excommunication. We do not wish to revive the unpleasant memories of that era and to bring up once again the profusion of remarks and writings of Ayatollah Azari-Qomi and the newspaper under his patronage [RESALAT] which has been in stark opposition to the absoluteness of the Velayat-e Faqih and the guidance of his eminence, the imam. However, he should be fully aware that if, God forbid, he moves in the same direction as before, we will not refrain from stating and laying bare all the facts.

Regarding his latest presermon speech at the Tehran Friday congregation, and in his remarks in the RESALAT editorial, it is necessary to mention the following points:

1. Contrary to the insinuations of Ayatollah Azari-Qomi that attempt to sow discord, all the individuals and elements loyal to the revolution and the imam have obediently accepted the absoluteness of the Velayat-e Faqih, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and have endorsed their obeisance to him categorically and overtly. Above all, this obeisance and intelligence has been mingled with their love for the Velayat and the Vali as well.

Yes. There are a few "influential" elements who are "middlemen" who have infiltrated the ranks of factions and in utter disregard of the iman, the system, the Velayat-e Faqih, and the leadership of the revolution. They try their utmost to fan the flames of malice and discord among the forces of the revolution and are squandering the assets of this hallowed movement.

However, the mode of combating these elements is not what Mr. Azari-Qomi from the public tribune [preceding word in English] of the Friday prayers has advocated to his opponents, whom he has branded opponents of the absoluteness of the Velayat.

2. The line of the imam within the framework of the imam's way of thinking and his experience as well as the manner in which the imam viewed the ideology, society, and administration is not something which can be violated , undermined, forgotten, or changed. In other words, the principles of the imam's line and thought which are belief in the pure Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him), which that great one stressed in his numerous writings and his politico- divine will repeatedly and hundreds of times should be preserved in the best possible manner and attempts should be made for the attainment of those principles. [passage omitted]

3. It is certain that the Vali-ye Faqih can have an independent jurisprudential interpretation regarding the government and the jurisprudential decrees and may proclaim his administrative and jurisprudential ideas and opinions in accordance with the expediencies of time and place. It is obvious that these decrees and exhortations would not contravene the tenets and the framework of the pure Muhammadan Islam and would thus not become what is being interpreted today as the imam's line.

4. No greater catastrophe could befall the revolution and the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic and the lofty status of the Velayat-e Faqih which would be more lethal than if one were to—intentionally or inadvertently—lump all differences of opinions or tastes into the categories of opposition to or support of the Velayat-e Faqih and the leadership. Thus by drawing a sinister line between the forces loyal to the revolution and the leadership, he would pit them against each another.

5. All the individuals who are sincere to the revolution, the imam, and the leadership will continually be stereotyped into two categories and will either be inducted into or eliminated from their ranks, whenever it is deemed necessary. [passage omitted]

6. What is hurts most today from among Ayatollah Azari-Qomi's recent remarks is that the label of opposition to the Velayat-e Faqih and the government of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani is being attached by a person who has a record of opposition to the Velayat-e Faqih and the exhortations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni in the past. We cited two examples in the beginning of the article.

It appears that Mr. Azari-Qomi has forgotten his remarks of a few years ago at the Qom Friday prayers when he accused one of the stalwarts of the revolution of having Marxist ideas in view of his support for the oppressed and deprived. He also seems to have forgotten his vehement attacks in the newspaper under his patronage against the government which had the endorsement of the imam, and these attacks consequently elicited a severe reaction from the great imam himself.

Mr. Azari-Qomi, who for the first time divided the guidelines and exhortations of the imam into guidance and orthodoxy and flouted the imam's clear instructions to give a favorable vote to the cabinet of Engineer Musavi and cast a negative vote?

Ponder for a while and see whether your remarks at the roundtable on this subject held at the Tehran university can even convince you, yourself? "I cast a negative vote because I thought that the imam wants a Majles which has an opposition so that the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not projected abroad as hateful."

Mr. Azari-Qomi, think a little and recall your utterances and statements in the past and do not audaciously and needlessly accuse the stalwarts of the revolution who have endured so much hardship of not being able to comprehend the imam's culture, the jurisprudential bases of the pure Muhammadan Islam. Most certainly, if your excellency does not bother to ponder your remarks in the past and persist in this erroneous policy of yours, we will publish them, and will present them to you for perusal.

Commentary on Soviet Attitude to Muslims

NC1603125590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Feb 90 p 20

[M. Faraz commentary: "The Era of Islamic Awakening and the Need for the Soviet Government's Alertness"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Acts such as allowing the mass immigration of Soviet Jews to the territories of occupied Palestine and the bloody suppression of the protests by the Soviet Muslims who are, after 70 or, rather, 100 years of pressure, now crying out "God is great" and acknowledging the mission of the last of the prophets, peace be upon him and his scion, will not help the Soviet Union to solve its problems and to overcome its economic and social ills.

Not only do such acts not undo any of the blind knots of the complicated Soviet problems, they also hurt the pure feelings of billions of Muslims throughout the world; and someone like Gorbachev will not be justified in doing this.

The West and especially America is trying to make the Kremlin gradually retreat from its positions and its political stances by resorting to misleading promises. It is trying to turn Moscow into an ally in the confrontation of the worldwide revival of divine thoughts which was started by the Islamic revolution. And, naturally, it is trying to create a schism in the relations between Iran and the Soviet Union which have improved during the past year and to spark off a war between the Kremlin and the Islamic Republic of Iran. And, as was pointed out by the late imam, the Soviet Union will once again be misled into making another mistake. In order to confront this scheme by the West, everyone—and especially the Soviet Union and Mr. Gorbachev—should display more alertness. It is the era of the awakening of the Muslims. The era when colonialists could do what they liked in Islamic countries has ended. The world is thirsting for truth and justice and these two bright stars can only be found in the clear sky of pure Mohammadan Islam.

KEYHAN To Publish Messages to Soviet Union

NC1903200590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Dear compatriots:

How many years has it been since you received any information from your relative or relatives in the Soviet Union?

For how many years have you been waiting eagerly for news, a letter, or a message?

KEYHAN HAVA'I is going to end this long wait of yours and is ready to convey your messages or letters to your dear ones by publishing them.

Wherever your dear ones may be in the Soviet Union—whether in Soviet Azerbaijan, Georgian SSR, the Caucasus or elsewhere—they will read your message. We will also convey their messages to you.

Please send your messages, letters, and photographs to the following KEYHAN HAVA'I address for publication: KEYHAN HAVA'I, KEYHAN building, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran.

Agricultural Minister, Cuban Envoy Discuss Trade

LD1603123990 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Iran and Cuba Thursday underscored further expansion of bilateral relations and mutual cooperation in the field of sugar cane, rice, and tobacco cultivation. In a meeting between Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari and Cuban ambassador here Isidro Contreras Perez, the two sides also discussed construction of a fishing ship-building factory and export of 50,000 tons of sugar to Iran in return for Iranian goods. The two officials decided to make the necessary studies on the proposed project for construction of a sugar cane plant in Iran, at the joint commission to be held in future.

North Korean Economic Minister Meets Officials

NC1503091690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The North Korean deputy minister of economic affairs, his accompanying delegation, and his country's ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran held talks with Mr. Shams Ardakani, deputy minister for international affairs in the Mines and Metals Ministry. During this meeting, both sides stressed implementing the memorandum of understanding each country signed on bilateral cooperation in mines and metals.

Yugoslav Energy Minister Leaves Tehran 19 Mar

NC1903103390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Stevan Santo, Yugoslav federal secretary for energy and industry, who was visiting our country at the head of a delegation, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by the minister of energy.

IRNA reports that, during the Yugoslav delegation's stay in Tehran, the expansion of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of energy production and the construction of centers and lines for the transfer of energy, were discussed.

Santo, who arrived in Tehran last Friday, expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the talks with Iranian officials and invited the energy ministry's officials and experts to visit Yugoslav industries.

Recent Cairo Fires Seen as 'Suspicious'

NC1403201090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 90

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] It is noticeable that observers are suspicious about the causes of and motives behind the fires in Cairo. A fire broke out in the Sheraton tourist hotel, burning several floors. This happened when the hotel was crowded with more than 1,000 foreign tourists who were forced to escape by jumping from windows several floors above the ground. At that time, the Egyptian regime's sources reported that 18 French nationals had been injured but gave no details. A week later, a fire broke out in another tourist hotel.

In view of this increasing phenomenon, observers do not rule out a connection with developments in Egypt where the confrontation between the Egyptian Islamic movement and the regime itself is escalating, particularly because the fires breaking out in the regime's own institutions and in places where foreigners are found. The Egyptian people reject the presence of these foreigners, especially Americans, other Westerners, and Zionists. [passage omitted]

All developments indicate that the popular opposition led by the Islamic movement against the Egyptian regime is growing because of the regime's repressive campaigns against the Muslims and its resistance to the Egyptian people's will who demand Islamic rule and urge ending the Egyptian regime's subservience to the United States. The people also demand expelling the Zionists from Egypt, abrogating all peace treaties and deals with them, and fighting them to liberate Palestine and Islamic Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Commentary Examines Afghan Shiite Assembly

LD1603103190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The first assembly of Afghan Shiites began in Tehran yesterday, the birthday of the savior of humanity, his holiness the lord of the age, may Almighty God hasten his lofty advent. The assembly was attended by mojahedin leaders and representatives of Afghan society. After holding the first and second seminars on Afghanistan, this assembly is taking place while Afghanistan is passing through one of the most sensitive periods of its history just over a year after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from that country.

In view of the fact that Islam was the sole factor behind the Afghan nation's resurrection during the dark days of

their country's history, political observers of Afghanistan's problems believe that the formation of a comprehensive government based on Islamic principles, which represents all levels of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, can pave the way toward a final solution of the Afghan problem. The main condition for the establishment of such a government is to allow the people of that country to choose their own path. No doubt such an objective would be fully realized if the foreigners were to stop their intervention.

This matter is worthy of serious evaluation in view of the crafty policies of global arrogance which, by imposing its own imported ideology and through the elimination of genuine Mohammadan Islam as the only factor of unity among various tribes and sects, is trying to weaken Afghan society even further. It must be noted that the allocation of such an assembly to the Shiites does not mean one Islamic sect is chosen and others are abandoned. Rather the objective is to study academically and scientifically the problems of a large section of the Muslim people of Afghanistan who have risen to fight for their religion and faith side by side with their jihad brothers in 10 years of struggle, despite deprivation and the dominating rule of the past.

It is natural that the ultimate goal of the Afghan Shiites is to find their true place in Islamic society and the future system of that country. Following the recent developments in Afghanistan, where there are divisions and clashes among the Kabul regime, the Shiite Assembly is viewed as a significant occasion. Observers of Afghan affairs believe that at this sensitive juncture the Afghan Shiites should, on the one hand, strengthen their own unity, and on the other hand, should cooperate in harmony with their Sunni brothers. [passage omitted]

Within the framework of the first assembly of Afghan Shiites one can say that a large section of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, who have been battle-hardened during their historic anti-arrogance struggle, have sent their representatives to this assembly in order to stress that the future of Afghanistan belongs to all the people of that country, who, as a whole, have been involved with their country's problems and have put up with its pains and suffering and deserve to determine the future of their country.

Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Mark Halabjah Anniversary

LD1603114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the tragedy of the chemical bombing of Halabjah by the criminal regime ruling over Iraq, more than 1,000 Iraqi Kurdish Muslims in the township of Piranshahr participated in a splendid march this morning to pay tribute to the thousands of innocent women, men, and children who were martyred in this city. While expressing their contempt for the perpetrators of this horrific crime, they strongly condemned the indifference of international forums to this crime.

A report by the Central News Unit from Urumiyeh states that during this march, the Iraqi Kurdish refugees and resistance strugglers, chanting slogans, compared the tragedy of the chemical bombing of Halabjah with the atomic bombing at Hiroshima and Nakasaki by the United States. They called for the adoption of international measures to ban the production and deployment of chemical and nuclear weapons. This report also states that the participants in the rally, after gathering at the Piranshahr Friday mosque, passed a resolution emphasizing the necessity and obligation of obeying the edicts of his eminince, Ayatollah Khamene'i and continuing the struggle of the Muslim people of Iraq against the regime of Saddam. This has been termed a national and divine duty.

And now a Central News Unit reporter reports on the march of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Sardasht:

[Reporter] This morning hundreds of Iraqi Kurdish refugees and strugglers, after gathering in Jerusalem Square in Sardasht, marched through the streets carrying numerous banners and placards depicting scenes from the chemical bombing of Halabajah including the bloodied corpses of women and children and slogans condemning the support given by world superpowers to the Saddam regime.

After marching through several streets, the marchers gathered in Sardasht's Revolution Square and issued an eight-point resolution calling for the unity of all Iraqi Muslims and resistance forces against Saddam's regime. A part of this resolution states: We make a pact in the blood of the Halabjah tragedy that we shall not give up our resistance until the last drop of our blood and we shall overthrow the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Saddam with the help of the Almighty.

In conclusion, the marchers declared: We make a pact with the soul of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—and awakener of the Muslims of the world, and his holy aspirations, to follow the jihad path of the late leader which is a path of God for the oppressed.

[Signed] The Central News Unit, Mahabad center, Sardasht

Program Deals With Resolution 598, Gulf States

LD1503142290

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0900 GMT on 15 March carries the program "In Line With the People, In Step With Officials." An unidentified moderator says that the is the "last in the present series until the end of the New Year holidays" [new year begins 21 March]. He says the program participants will be Dr. Hasan Habibi, first vice president; Mirzadeh, the president's executive affairs deputy; and Razavi, head of the administrative and employment affairs organization. The moderator points out that the guests "are late," and music is played until 0920 GMT, when the phone-in program opens. Most listeners questions deal with the

New Year bonus payment to state employees, pensions, traffic problems in the capital, and high prices facing New Year shoppers. Habibi expresses the hope that through implementation of the Five-Year Plan the country's output will rise, and food, clothes and commodity prices will actually come down in future years. Mirzadeh also speaks of the studies undertaken to transfer some state departments to other regions to ease Tehran's traffic problem. This again is a long-term plan, which could follow the Five-Year Plan, he notes.

The moderator asks if any progress has been made concerning the Iran-Iraq peace talks, to which Dr. Habibi answers: "We have accepted UN Resolution 598, and if it is going to be implemented then it should be implemented in full. In view of this we must accept that the issue of the Iraqi withdrawal behind the internationally recognized borders must be respected as a principle, so that attention can be paid to the other issues. This is an issue repeatedly raised by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the secretary general's new proposal, the issues of the withdrawal of forces and exchange of prisoners of war are linked, and some other issues of Resolution 598 are mentioned.

"As a whole this is acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We truly hope that Iraq will abandon its stubbornness and accept these proposals. If that were to happen, we could say that a step forward is taken and—God willing—we will move toward solving the problem. However, if more proposals are to be added to the secretary general's suggestion, we must say that no progress will be made. The Islamic Republic's Governent cannot go for progress in the talks at any cost; rather, the price it is prepared to pay should solve these problems in the interests of the people of Iran and the Islamic ummah of Iran. One of the most important parts of these interests is the Iraqi withdrawal behind the internationally recognized borders. We are therefore waiting to see what course the future round of talks will follow. We hope to make progress in this field."

The moderator asks if Iran plans to expand its relations with the Western world, and, if so, what are the existing limits? An unidentifiable participant responds: "This issue was often raised during the life of his holiness the imam. Perhaps his holiness the imam himself somehow raised this issue, or maybe it was said in his presence. However, he confirmed that we can have relations, and good relations, with all countries of the world, except a few, wich we have decided on. But there is a condition, that is, they should recognize the right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to remain an independent and free state. They should accept Iran's independence and its religious, spiritual material, and territorial integrity, so that we can have good relations with them. It is natural that the extent of our ties will depend on the extent of this recognition, that is, a country might agree 100 percent with Iran and its belief; our ties with such a country will be very good. To the same extent relations can be limited.

"At the present, the issue is not what the Western press presents about Iran wishing to improve its relations or not. Rather the issue depends on the way the West wishes to treat Iran. If it were to say: We accept Iran, recognize its independence, and will not attack Iran without just cause, then it is natural that Iran will not attack an opposing side, and there will be no dispute in this connection.

"We are owed some assets by some countries. If our assets were to be returned to us, then we would have no financial dispute with the countries concerned. Even with Iraq, with whom we have been engaged in the eight-year war, we say that if Resolution 598 were to be implemented, we would reach a state of peace. That is, this state of neither war nor peace will end in peace. And if from this date Iraq is prepared to pursue ties based on peaceful coexistence, then we would live together peacefully.

"We follow the same policy with the Persian Gulf states. That is, if they apologize for what they did against us, then we would have no dispute with them. In fact, the dispute was started by our opposing side [taraf-e moqabel], and as soon as it terminates the dispute, we will have no dispute with it."

Commentary Lauds UN Human Rights Official Pohl

NC1603162090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Mar 90 p 11

[Commentary: "Human Rights, Realism, and Political Observations"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful.

The report on the visit by the representative of the UN Human Rights Committee to Iran has been widely noted in the world's mass media. International news agencies have described Mr. Galindo Pohl's one-week visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran as a positive step in proving that human rights are being observed in Iran. Mr. Galindo Pohl's statement on the baselessness of allegations that political prisoners are executed in Iran under the label of drug traffickers made the headlines.

The representative of the UN Human Rights Committee has clearly stated in his report that, in the absence of proof, reports on the execution of political opponents in Iran will be regarded only as allegations.

Mr. Galindo Pohl was able to see at least four of the people who were reported by opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran to have been executed and to see for himself that these reports were fabricated.

The truth is that what the special representative of the UN Human Rights Committee saw during his one-week stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran was only part of the facts proving that Iran is observing the recognized norms of human rights and that it is the target of shocking crimes perpetrated by the enemies of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Mr. Galindo Pohl, who was elected chairman of the UN Human Rights Committee this year, believes, more than any of his former colleagues, in the need to create healthy relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to correct the reports published by the committee on the human rights situation here.

After the publication of the last spiteful report by the committee on the human rights situation in Iran and before Mr. Galindo Pohl's visit to Tehran, he corrected important portions of the committee's report after contacting the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also admitted that the report was wrong. The fact that a simple meeting with the Iranian representative in the United Nations convinced the UN Human Rights Committee special representative showed how weak the news sources of an organization that claims to defend human rights were about the domestic situation in Iran.

Mr. Galindo Pohl's one-week visit to Iran shows his sincerity in carrying out his duties. Naturally the Islamic Republic of Iran will accept all the reactions, statements, and stands by the UN Human Rights Committee and other world forums as long as these are based on truth and sincerity, and it will be ready for any kind of cooperation within this framework. But the possibility that the enemies of the Islamic Revolution may try to resort to this same method once again and to use the same weapon against the Islamic Republic of Iran should not be ruled out. If this happens, then Iran's stand will be clear. If the UN Human Rights Committee speaks the truth, its stands will be supported. But if it gives in to the political pressures by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution, then it will only be harming its credibility.

Majles Speaker Interviewed on Budget Bill

LD2003181590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The speaker of the Islamic Majles, Mr. Karrubi, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent today, explained particular features of the country's budget bill for the new year beginning 21 March 1990. Our correspondent has dispatched a report in this connection.

[Correspondent] The Islamic Majles, in its open session last night, ended the debate on the notes of the country's budget bill for the new year. In this connection, the speaker of the Islamic Majles Mr. Karrubi, in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), described particular features and priorities of this budget and said: Since the victory of the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran under the leadership of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, this is the first budget which is based on a five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan. This would safeguard the planning arrangements made in the Five-Year Plan.

At the conclusion of this interview, Mr. Karrubi said: Another particular feature of the budget bill for the new year is that it has paid attention to the provision of resources for the universities including hostels, expansion of training and research works, and doubling the development budget in the new year.

Council of Guardians Passes Budget Bill

LD2003181990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The Council of Guardians today voted that the country's budget bill for March 21 1990, ratified by the deputies of the Islamic copnsultative council, does not contradict religious laws or the constitution.

Mirzadeh on Reconstruction of War-Damaged Areas

LD1703124790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Mirzadeh, the president's executive deputy and head of the headquarters in charge of reconstruction and renovation of war-hit areas, today announced: Since the time of acceptance of Resolution 598 till present, reconstruction and renovation of 58 war-hit towns have been concluded. Our correspondent has conducted an interview with the president's deputy in connection with plans devised for reconstruction and renovation of war-hit areas. We draw your attention to that interview.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Even though reconstruction work began in many war-hits area since the early days of the war, however, it can be seen that the process of reconstruction in Khuzestan has been slow. This matter was mentioned by Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, following his visit to Khuzestan Province. Also this matter has been reflected in separate reports sent by correspondents of Voice and Vision from that province. We have come to see Mr. Mirzadeh, presidential deputy in executive affairs and head of the headquarters [HQ] in charge of reconstruction and renovation of war-hit areas. I would like to ask him to express his opinion about the process of reconstruction, in particular in Khuzestan Province.

[Mirzadeh] Reconstruction plans began in 1361 [March 21 1982-March 20 1983] alongside and simultaneous with the war. However, from 1367 [March 21 1988-March 20 1989]—that is exactly one month after [acceptance of] the resolution, the plans of the central HQ were ratified. It was intended that on the basis of those plans, proposals, and priorities, necessary credits would be provided to organs in charge of reconstruction of war-hit areas. After the acceptance of the resolution, that is to say during the last 19 months, reconstruction and renovation of 20 towns of bombed areas and 38 towns of war-hit areas have been concluded.

Reconstruction work in seven other towns of war-hit areas, including Abadan, Khorramshahr, Dehloran, Bostan, Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan-e Gharb, and Sar-e Pol-Zahab, has begun. Of course, the reconstruction of those towns, as far as provision of necessary facilities for

sheltering war-hit people and construction of fundamental facilities are concerned began in the past. However, invitation to war refugees for their presence began gradually from the beginning of 1368 [March 21 1989-March 20 1990]. During this period, more than 117,781 units have been reconstructed or renovated in those regions which were bombed or affected by the war. Out of that number 14,062 units were demolished completely, 18,605 units were damaged more than 50 percent, and 85,114 units were damaged below 50 percent. Furthermore, during this period work has been done in those areas in the following fields: reconstruction of education centers and historical sites which have been damaged due to the war; construction of bridges and roads in war-hit provinces; rejuvenation of palm groves; reconstruction of airports; operation of farms and irrigation systems which suffered damage due to the war; compensation for losses suffered by farmers and cattle-breeders; reconstruction of paper mills, factories producing sugar, cement, soap, as well as Karun and Haft-Tappeh's agro-business complexes; reconstruction of refineries and petrochemical complexes; reconstruction of power stations, electricity cables and networks, and communication installations in war-hit areas; reconstruction of Voice and Vision installations, as well as health centers and hospitals, and other services such as water supplies. All the above have been reconstructed in war-hit towns in general. The major part of such works have been finished, while the remaining work is currently in progress.

In 1368, from provisions made in Clause 49 [of the budget bill] we had more than 69 billion rials credits, all of which were spent. As we were a bit short, by the initiative of the esteemed president another 33 billion rials was added to reconstruction credits. Further, because all our foreign currency allocations were spent due to great need for building material and for reconstruction equipment in general, we spent a further $75 million which was really out of our foreign currency allocations for the coming year. For 1369 [March 21 1990-20 March 1991] our plan is to conclude reconstruction work in Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-Zahab, Dehloran, and Bostan. Then we will have the reconstruction of the remaining areas in Abadan, Khorramshahr township, and Qasr-e Shirin as well as villages surrounding those areas. [end recording]

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Decries 'Economic Terrorists'

NC1703191590 Paris AFP in English 1840 GMT 17 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 17 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper considered close to the government called Saturday for profiteers and other "economic terrorists" to be sentenced to death, describing capitalists as enemies of the Islamic republic.

"The time for discretion, advice and admonishment is over," said the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial that called for "open warfare" against those who threaten the economic security of the state.

"If the judiciary, legislative and executive authorities fail to choose the gallows for economic terrorists, they will lose the battle," the paper added. "All the other solutions are useless and tomorrow will be too late."

It said that many people thought economic criminals would be punished after the election last July of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"But now it has become clear that capitalists are enemies of the Islamic republic whoever is in power," the newspaper said. "They only think of their own pockets and of striking blows to the system."

The head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said Friday that the government was considering capital punishment for those who sabotage the economy, "even within government organizations."

"Economic terrorism" is the term used here for short-term speculation, black marketeering and corruption that is seen as defeating the government's efforts to revive Iran's post-war economy.

Supreme Court Head Issues Warning to Profiteers

LD1603213890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The head of the Supreme Court has issued a warning to hoarders and profiteers, who cause increasing prices. According to an IRNA report, he said, speaking during Friday prayers in Mashhad: The action of those who trample on the blood of the martyrs, through profiteering, cheating in transactions, and creating black markets, is corruption.

Stressing that the authorities and the public expect the judiciary to deal decisively with narcotics smuggling and addiction, and to cleanse society of the filthy presence of insurgents, he said: Based on their circumstances, wherever the rights of poor families are violated by insurgents, sums will be paid to them from the treasury, until the guilty parties are punished.

Qom Seminarians Issue Call for Solidarity

NC1903220390 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Mar 90 p 1

["Text" of the statement by the association of theologians at the Qom seminary in the wake of "the exhortations of the lofty leadership for unity and solidarity" issued at Qom; date not given]

[Text] These days the grouplets affiliated with world arrogance and their supporters for weakening the revolutionary morale of the people of our country are involved in disseminating baseless rumors. Also, the imperialist news agencies with the extensive resources they possess on an international scale are endeavoring to make a mountain out of a molehill and to sow the seeds

of discord, suspicion, pessimisim, and despondency in our heroic nation. They are doing this so the crushing impact of the paean "God is Great!" which was chanted in unison by our combatant people on the night of 11 February (anniversary of the Islamic revolution) when they turned out by millions should, in their own assessment, be relegated to oblivion. They are also doing this so that, God forbid, the Islamic Republic might become frustrated over the issue of reconstruction. All are therefore beholden not to take any step except in the path of unity and making our ranks cohesive in order to crush all these plots.

We entreat all our compatriots in all sectors to do the following in this regard:

1. They should refrain from every action, remark, or even word (direct or indirect) which does not conform with the spirit of Islamic brotherhood and fraternity, understanding, and affection. They should strictly abstain from adopting any such attitudes that might furnish the enemy with a pretext for disseminating rumors of a rift in our ranks. Just as the eminent leader of the revolution has said, their only steps should be on the path to unity and of Islamic brotherhood.

2. In order to make the enemy unsuccessful, they should take advantage of every opportunity to proclaim the fact that the true path of the revolution is the same as the path of our dear imam (may his soul be sanctified) and that his deep and lofty thinking and eminent guidance which has been and always will be the eternal guideline of the revolution in all fields is the criterion for revolutionary action.

According to the holy Koran, they should stand in a single [word indistinct] "as if they are a solid structure" [Koranic verse] behind the lofty status of the leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, who is the one who will perpetuate and crystallize the pure line of the imam and the revolution and will thus appease and gladden the spirits of our late imam and the great martyrs of the revolution this way.

*Appointments to Various Offices Announced

90OI0197G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 21 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Based on a report by the Public Relations Office of the Plan and Budget Organization, according to a personnel action by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president and director of the Plan and Budget Organization, Siamak Samimi-Dehkordi was appointed as the director of the communications department of the said organization.

The following appointments were carried out by Dr. Iraj Fazel, minister of health, treatment, and medical education:

- Dr. Bahador, as managing director of the Regional Health and Treatment Organization of Kohkiluye va Boyer Ahmad Province, retaining his post as superintendent of the Yasuj Medical College.
- Dr. Mirza'i, as managing director of the Health and Treatment Organization of Ilam Province, retaining his post as superintendent of the Medical College of Ilam.
- Dr. Rajab-Pur, as managing director of the Health and Treatment Organization of Lorestan Province, retaining his post as superintendent of the Medical College of Lorestan.
- Dr. Derafshi, as managing director of the Health and Treatment Organization of Kordestan Province, retaining his post as the superintendent of the Medical College of Kordestan.
- Dr. Sedaqat, as head of the Regional Health and Treatment Organization of Bushehr Province, retaining his post as superintendent of the Medical College of Bushehr.

Likewise, Dr. Mostafa Mohaqeq-Dowlatabadi was appointed as the deputy director of the education undersecretary in the Office of Public Relations of the said ministry by Dr. Seyyed Shahabeddin Sadr, deputy minister of education affairs of the aforesaid ministry.

*Scattered Disturbances Reported in Tehran

90OI0211A London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The disturbances that began on Friday 16 February at Amjadiyeh Field have not yet completely subsided and are continuing sporadically in Tehran.

Confirmed reports state that Tehrani youth played the major role in the scattered demonstrations and verbal clashes with the regime's revolutionary guards.

A great many Tehran families are worried that their young children—without regard for the possible dangers to them in demonstrating against the regime—are doing this.

Last week's demonstrations took place in the Mohseni, Saltanat Abad, Amiriyeh, and Moniriyeh fields.

The head of a Tehran family said: We bring our son home from the street several times a day, but he takes the next opportunity and goes back to the alley and the street. In the street they get together and shout slogans and then quickly disperse.

A reliable source in Tehran reports that on Wednesday [date unclear], after a demonstration of 50,000 persons at Amjadiyeh field and while the regime was concentrating all its attention on the demonstrations in the streets of Tehran, a group armed with machine guns and heavy weapons attacked the Lavizan base, occupied by the revolutionary guards, and disarmed all the revolutionary guards stationed at the base.

This report states that in the first moments after entering the Lavizan base the attackers opened fire with heavy machine guns, put down all activity by the revolutionary guard soldiers, then disarmed them.

After disarming the revolutionary guard soldiers, the attackers seized and took with them a significant quantity of heavy weapons, including heavy machine guns, mortars, and rockets.

We note that a number of the revolutionary guard soldiers are draftees who were sent to the revolutionary guards in lieu of army service.

This reliable source reported that in the disarmament of the revolutionary guard soldiers only one of them was killed by the attackers. He did not confirm the report of the bombing of the Niavaran Revolutionary Komiteh, which was rumored two weeks ago.

Women's Demonstrations in Tehran

Moments before press time, KEYHAN learned from Tehran that on Monday 5 March (14 Esfand) Tehrani women demonstrated against the regime. It was impossible to confirm this report in the time available.

New Shortwave Transmitter Commissioned

LD1503220190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The shortwave transmitter station of Zahedan was commissioned this morning in the presence of Mr. Hashemi, the head of the Islamic Republic's Voice and Vision organization; the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan; and Majles deputies of the people of Zaheda and Lar. This transmitter is capable of fully covering Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf sheykhdoms, and Oman, along with some regions of India and Iraq and some southern areas of the Soviet Union, carrying programs of the voice of the Islamic Republic. The construction cost of this transmitter was 270 million rials, plus $6 million. It is pointed out that for the first time in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, the aerial system and their attachments were designed and erected by this organization's experts.

Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, the head of the Voice and Vision organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who went to Sistan va Baluchestan Province to commission the Zahedan transmitter station, was interviewed by a correspondent of the Central News Unit this evening on the outcome of opening radio transmitter stations in various regions of the country. He said:

[Begin Hashemi recording] This transmitter will cover the countries in the Persian Gulf region and some part of the Indian subcontinent and the Soviet Union. In line with its coverage the transmitter will broadcast programmes in Urdu, English, and Arabic. Naturally, in view of the Voice and Vision's mission to promote and broadcast Islamic teachings and the values of the Islamic revolution, such transmitter stations can play an effective and determining role in realizing the organization's objectives of bringing the message of the revolution to interested listeners. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Three TV Satellite Ground Stations Opened

LD1603223390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Mar 90

[Text] The satellite television ground stations in the villages of Maragh, (?Hag), and Sar, in the vicinity of Kashan [in central Iran], were inaugurated this morning in the presence of the Voice and Vision Organization's technical deputy, and 14 villages in the region situated in mountain foothills joined the country's television network. According to the Central News Unit, the three satellite ground stations, each of which has a strength of five kw [as heard], were put into operation by the experts of Esfahan's Television and FM Transmitter Repair and Maintenance Unit.

*Report on Proceedings of 21 Feb Majles Session

90OI0199A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Feb 90 pp 5, 3

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division: The Majles held a session yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this meeting, which continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian presiding, Mr. Hojaji, the representative of Mianeh, and Mr. Damadi, the representative of Sari, spoke as pre-agenda speakers.

Below, you will read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers, the memos of the deputies to the country's executive officials and the details of the discussions.

Seyyed Sajjad Hojaji, Representative of Mianeh

The first pre-agenda speaker in the open session of the Majles yesterday was Seyyed Sajjad Hojaji, from the Mianeh electoral district, who began his speech with his condolences to the imam of the age, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the faithful nation of Iran on the anniversary of the martyrdom of his holiness Musa ebn-e Ja'far.

Continuing his speech, he greeted the sacred soul of the Imam, the revered martyrs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the martyrs of Soviet Azarbaijan and Tadzhikistan and said: I ask the great Satans, the United States and England, and the little Satan, Israel: Are Jesus and Moses pleased with your actions? Are your actions in accordance with the Torah and the Bible? Given your historical crimes in World War I and World War II, and in Algeria, Latin America and Panama, especially in occupied Palestine and Lebanon, particularly what you did during the eight years of the war imposed on Iran by the cursed Saddam, tell us, what answer do you give before the wrathful Almighty, Jesus and Moses? Certainly you do not have a convincing answer. In that case, you shall be condemned to eternal hell. Furthermore, I ask the leaders of Christianity and Judaism, do you who are the successors of those revered personalities and the implementors of the instructions of the Bible and the Torah, look at your heinous actions, which are contrary to the principles of your fellow religionists? Why do you

not deal properly with and protest against the heathen book "The Satanic Verses," which has been written, printed, and published under the auspices of the rulers of Christianity and Zionism by an excommunicated person, the killing of whom is obligatory, especially considering that it is against God and His book, religion and the Prophet Mohammad, a person whose mission and religion have been reported as good news by Moses and Jesus in the Bible and the Torah? Do you not believe that for your silence you will be tried and questioned by that divine Prophet, not to mention that anyone who insults the religion, the prophets, and the sacred books of God will certainly have to deal with us?

He added: My message to the leaders of the Islamic countries, including the kings of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Morocco and Egypt, is that you claim to be Muslims, yet you do not stand against the enemies of Islam and the Muslims, who have been oppressing the oppressed Muslim nation of Palestine for 40 years and have attacked, killed, made homeless, and inflicted material and spiritual damage on the combative Muslim people of Lebanon for 15 years, and whose cries for support resonate on earth and in the heavens. If you were and are Muslims, why did you not protest the eight-year war imposed by the cursed Saddam on the Muslim people of Iran upon the order of the great Satan and its allies? Instead, you even supported him. Why do you not protest, but instead support the opposition of Saddam and his masters to the articles of Resolution 598, which was accepted by Iran after the cease-fire, and the occupation of the Iranian soil which has not yet been freed? Then you should know that we are peaceful and peace-loving.

Addressing the Afghan Mojahidin, Mr. Hojaji said: Note that in the course of your struggle, Iran and Pakistan have cooperated and are cooperating with you with material, spiritual, and political aid, but it appears that today the aggressive United States is pretending to be a nanny more loving than the mother and is trying to convert you to the manufactured religion of Wahabism, placing you in the American bloc. Beware not to fall into this trap.

The speaker added: Dear brothers and oppressed fighters of Palestine, advance towards freedom and Islam through unity, Islamic unity, and holy war. Do not be fooled by Arab reactionaries who have not done anything for you and will not do anything and who are traitors to Islam and Muslims! Addressing Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, the representative of the people of Mianeh said: You have brought about a good change in your country. Bravo! But what I suggest is that you repeatedly read the letter and the message of the imam. Act thoughtfully and inventively accordingly, because it is in your best interests both in this world and the next. Furthermore, I do not know why you treat the people of Eastern Europe peacefully while you treat the Muslims of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Tadjikistan violently. What do you have in mind? Do not fall for the deception of the United States. This goes against all wisdom, logic, humanity, and law. You must fear all the oppressed people.

Addressing the people of the world and the Muslims of the world, Hojaji said: Know that today the only people who are the banner carriers of monotheism, and social justice in the interest of human societies and particularly the oppressed are the independent people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the leadership of the imam and Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Thanking Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for writing the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget bill of the country, the speaker expressed hope that with the cooperation of the Plan and Budget Committee and other related committees, this bill will be ratified as soon as possible and that through its implementation, positive steps will be taken to eliminate the social problems throughout the country.

In conclusion, Mr. Hojaji asked the minister of interior, by improving the administration and bringing in an innovative governor general to East Azerbaijan, to bring about overall social changes and movement in all the cities of the province.

In conclusion, he made certain reminders to the executive officials concerning his constituency.

'Ezzatollah Damadi, Representative of the People of Sari

Mr. 'Ezzatollah Damadi, the representative of the people of Sari, was the second and final pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday. First, offering his condolences to the beloved leader and nation of Iran on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the symbol of resistance and piety, the seventh imam of the Shiites, His Holiness Imam Musa Kazem, and offering his congratulations to the heroic nation of Iran on the 12th spring of freedom, honor and dignity, he said: I thank the faithful, devout, good people of my constituency, the city of Sari, who celebrated most magnificently the 10 days of Fajr [Dawn] and the 22 Bahman [11 February] march.

Then, referring to Resolution 598 of the Security Council and the disruptive behavior of Iraq in implementing it, he said: This shows the weakness of the United Nations and the Security Council and the weakening of the secretary general. This cruel and proud government (Iraq) has not stopped its ignorant ways. Iraq's disruptive actions are not the first and will not be the last. I ask the Security Council to adhere to its mission and not to treat the violator more kindly than it has. Rather, it must carry out its duty, which is to implement Resolution 598 and make the region secure so that the impudent and ignorant countries realize that they must adhere to one principle.

In another part of his speech, stating that one of the most important problems of the country is the economy and uncontrolled inflation, the speaker pointed out: The

major factor in these problems and difficulties is the lack of change in the structure of the past regime, which has remained in place. As long as we lack the decisive will to change the structure of the past regime and do not try to carry out proper, reasonable planning to change this structure, we should not expect to resolve the problems, and we will have to try to resolve the issues within the same framework, the result of which will be the approval of the same structure. As long as the market for wheeling and dealing and thriving middlemen is supported, one can no longer speak seriously about production and exports. As long as the prosperity of the transactions sector affects all other sectors, as is talked about everywhere, there is no place for a culture of work and export. As long as there is no culture of work and production in the society, we should not attempt to control inflation. High prices and inflation are on the shoulders of that group of people with low incomes, the employees, workers, and farmers, who are the true owners of the revolution. The government must control inflation through proper planning. When the economic system of the country revolves around an unsound economy and cash is readily available to the people, when there is no secure market to attract the cash flow in the production sector, the services sector begins to become active, and the industries and production sector moves out, creating the grounds for inflation. Who should provide this confidence for the people in order for them to invest with peace of mind?

Mr. Damadi also said: If we do not resolve the issue of domestic policy, the economic problem will not be solved. Inflation and the economic problems of the country depend on the resolution of domestic and foreign policy. Thank God, the five-year plan has been ratified by the Majles, approved by the honorable Council of Guardians, and sent to the working government, and, on the basis of this plan, the government has presented the 1369 budget to the Majles, and the people have set their hopes on this government and its plan. We hope the executive officials of the country will work hard towards the goal, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and, by attracting competent, compassionate, trustworthy, truthful, and experienced administrators, create a healthy climate for cooperation with the plan in order for the country to take effective steps towards production and self-sufficiency and achieve complete freedom. It is then that we will have carried out our religious and legislative duty in regard to our nation.

The speaker then emphasized the need for the participation of the people in economic, political, and social affairs and said: If we do not value the people and do not consider their participation and consultation necessary, we shall not succeed in changing the structure of the country. Connecting the production and distribution links of the Ministry of Commerce by allowing the people to be free and the guiding and supervisory role of the government shall have a positive effect on reducing inflation as well.

Also, emphasizing the agricultural issue, making it central to all programs, he said: When the service sector prospers and the agricultural and production sectors are dismissed, migration towards the cities increases. In order to prevent it, we must move in a new direction, that is, to value farmers and production. When in the agricultural sector, maximum profit is zero to five percent and in the services sector is reaches 500 percent, one can no longer speak of agriculture and self-sufficiency. The result is that in 30 years, the urban population has increased from 6 million to 30 million.

Is this increase in the population of cities not the result of the elimination of agriculture and production, and in practice putting people to work in the service sector? My dear colleagues, dependence in the agricultural sector is the worst kind of dependence and ultimately threatens us. I request that the Ministry of Agriculture stop being frugal in giving fertilizer and resources to the farmers, and that sufficient resources be placed at the disposal of this hard-working stratum so as not to cause problems for the country. Our independence is protected when we are self-sufficient in agriculture, industry, and other areas and not in need of the East or the West. To shout the slogan of neither East nor West but in practice need foreign countries is contrary to the principles of the revolution, and then we shall be ashamed before the noble nation of Iran. In order to build the country and reduce inflation, we must join hands in unity and brotherhood and build a model country for other Islamic countries. Then we will have carried out our religious and legislative duty.

He added: It is most unfortunate that in the 11 years since the revolution, despite the existence of all these God-given natural resources and abundant economic capabilities, our country has been unable to succeed economically. What is expected of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is that by employing expert and faithful individuals, it take effective steps in the area of the economy. Today, differences, factionalism, group politics, self-centeredness, and lack of attention to the people are unforgivable religious sins and amount to treason.

Referring to the insurance of the farmers' earnings and reassuring them in regard to purchasing their products, he said: Their health insurance must be implemented as soon as possible. Giving them disability insurance, retirement, welfare services, and sufficient interest-free loans to purchase spare parts and machinery are among the needs of farmers.

He also emphasized the implementation of social security for women and said: The women of our country expect it.

He continued: Planning for the villages and in practice allocating budgets to them and providing them with their basic needs, such as water, electricity, telephone, asphalt, education, physical education, health and treatment,

high schools and universities, and employment, are the basics for rural living and preventing the migration of the villagers.

He then referred to the problems of the employees and workers and said: So far, no essential decision has been made about this group. Most of them continue their lives at very small salaries and have heavy expenditures. They constantly have their hopeful eyes on the government, hoping that it will help relieve them of this hardship in this economic, inflationary deadlock. The government must do some basic thinking in this regard.

He referred to the teachers, that hard-working, oppressed stratum whose duty it is to build the minds of human beings, and added: The teacher of the society and culture molds the society and infuses soul, spirit, and knowledge into the dead corpse of the society, saving it from darkness and ignorance. It is obligatory to all those who are in charge of the affairs of the society to reveal the value of teachers and their work. Indeed, why should the salary of a teacher who has such a grave responsibility in the society be the lowest of all salaries? To be fair, is this not lowering the value of culture in the society? A teacher stands on his feet in the classroom 24 hours every week with chalk and blackboards and spends another 26 hours at home studying or correcting papers. Which one of our colleagues works more than 50 hours a week? If the government does not make a fundamental decision about this hard-working stratum, teachers will have to engage in private tutoring in order to make a living, and those who have no tutorial jobs will have to sell cigarettes or drive taxis, and teaching will become their second job. This will be a great blow to education in the country. Now, if the culture of the society, which is the essence and foundation of the country and the messenger and manifestation of the personality of the society, becomes ill, what must be done? What must be thought of, and how should the divine and godly personality of the teacher be preserved and protected? Let us face reality and not allow these divine ambassadors, criers of truth, protectors of thought, personal messengers of the society, sincere teachers of unity, protectors of the oppressed and the downtrodden classes, and true and actual implementors of the ministry fall—God forbid—from the high peak of godly living for subsistence living. Truly, why has the profession of teaching been so belittled?

In the same connection, he added: The government must, in providing the salaries and valuing the worth of teachers, make it possible for teachers not to engage in any other work but that of teaching and not to be assigned to any other organization, so that they can carry out their duties in the classroom. With gratitude and appreciation to the minister of education, who has taken steps to improve the condition of this hard-working stratum, and also for the services which are underway, I call his attention to that group who have been teaching for several years on hourly wages in hopes that rapid steps will be taken in regard to their official hiring in order to prevent their being in limbo any longer.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Sari also offered some other reminders to the executive officials of the country.

The Majles Speaker's Statements

Following the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the Majles speaker, spoke regarding the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness Imam Musa Kazem. The speaker of the Majles said: The month of Rajab [the seventh month of the Muslim calendar] coincides with the martyrdom of the seventh imam, Musa ebn-e Ja'far, an imam whose proud life was full of struggle and resistance, a great leader who was in jail for years, suffering the most severe imprisonment and torture. According to reports of notable scholars, his days were not distinguishable from his nights in a prison complete with torture, chains, and shackles. But inside that same prison, he spoke his mind and sent his message to his allies, devotees, fellow Shiites, and revolutionary supporters. He was an imam whose enemy could not even tolerate him in prison and hence poisoned him.

I offer my condolences to all the Muslims of the world, the Muslims of Islamic Iran, the Shiites of the world, the officials and servants, and the grand leader for the martyrdom of Imam Musa ebn-e Ja'far, and I hope that, inspired by the life-giving instructions of the imams and the life of struggle and resistance of his holiness, we will be able to continue proudly along the path of our imam, who is an offspring of Musa ebn-e Ja'far, and to stand against global heathenism and oppression, particularly against the great Satan, the United States, so that—God willing—this revolution will join the revolution of his holiness Mehdi.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the continuation of the report to the Majles on the second round of discussions of the revolutionary institutions committee in regard to the "legislative proposal on the procedures to create facilities for the self-sacrificers of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war," several articles of which, after a number of the suggestions of the representatives were studied, were ratified as follows.

Article 2: All ministries issuing agreements in principle and trade permits shall be responsible for allocating at least 40 percent of their total issued agreements in principle, the foreign currency for which is provided by the ministry issuing them, to the self-sacrificing applicants (actual or legal persons) cited in this law.

Note 1: The above-mentioned ministries shall be responsible for issuing agreements in principle or related permits or certificates for that group of production units needing foreign currency or whose needed foreign currency is provided by the applicant at any time in the year.

Note 2: Issued agreements in principle or other such permits shall not be transferrable.

Note 3: The procedures for the transfer of all agreements in principle which are cancelled from the date of the ratification of this law for any reason shall be in accordance with the contents of this law.

Note 4: If up to the first six months of every year there is not a sufficient number of applicants as stated in this law, the headquarters for the coordination of the affairs of the self-sacrificers shall inform the related ministries that the remainder of the facilities stated in this law can be transferred to other applicants, on the basis of the regulations.

Note 5: The ministries mentioned in this law in connection with the issuance of agreements in principle or permits or other necessary certificates for self-sacrificers (stated in Articles 22 and 23) shall be responsible for making arrangements for steps to be taken in regard to the issuance of the related permits within three months after the request by the center for expansion.

Article 3: In implementing this law, the responsibility for the hiring of self-sacrificers in the form of cooperatives with the centers for the expansion of production and developmental services in regard to the government organization shall be conferred on the administrative and employment affairs agency and in other cases on the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Article 4: The Guards Corps or the Construction Jihad, as the case may be, shall be responsible for establishing centers for identifying and recommending the persons cited in this law from among their own ranks.

Article 5: The administrative and employment affairs agency and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs shall be responsible for informing the headquarters for the affairs of the self-sacrificers concerning implementation procedures and statistical results in connection with the contents of the "employment law of the self-sacrificers, prisoners, and members of the families of the martyrs."

Discussions concerning the remainder of the articles in this proposal were postponed to the next session of the Majles.

The Last Item on the Agenda

At the end of yesterday's session, the single urgency motion of the bill on "the collection of some of the government revenues and their uses in specified cases" was put to a vote, and the urgency motion was ratified.

The Islamic Consultative Majles will have a session on Sunday.

The Deputies' Memos to the Country's Executive Officials

- Mr. Shahriari, the representative of Dashti, Tangestan, Deyr, and Kangan: To the minister of energy, in regard to the situation of the drinking water of the city of Bushehr.
- Mr. Taheri, the representative of Maragheh and 'Ajabshir: To the minister of health, treatment and medical education in regard to the completion of the health center in 'Ajabshir, and to the minister of energy in regard to continuation of the study of the Qal'eh Chay dam in 'Ajabshir.
- Mr. Ha'eri, the representative of Mehran, Dehloran, and Darreh Shir: To the administrative and employment agency in regard to rapid review in abolishing the increase of the oppressed group from the facilities of the employees in the Province of Ilam [as published].
- Mr. Hemmati, the representative of Meshkinshahr: To the minister of education and training in regard to providing the administrative necessities and minibuses needed by the education department of Meshkinshahr.
- Mr. Pudineh, the representative of Zabol: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education in regard to providing specialized physicians for the Zahak and Zabol hospitals.
- The representatives of the Province of Esfahan: To the Plan and Budget Organization in regard to providing the budget deficit for the current year for the education office of the province.
- Mr. Astaneh, the representative of Sarband of Arak, and Mr. Fada'i, the representative of Arak: The reason for the dismissal of the director general of Central Province.
- Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji, the representative of Saveh: To the minister of economic affairs and finance and the Monetary and Credit Council in regard to expediting the study and ratification of the proposal of the Mellat and Tejarat banks concerning investment in the Tehran-Saveh expressway.

Nepal

University Staff Strike To Protest Campus Attack

BK1503155090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 15 (AFP)- Some 300 staff at Tribhuvan University's engineering college observed a one-day strike Thursday [15 March] to protest an assault on the college by a group of masked men, campus sources said.

The staff wore black arm bands for some two hours during the strike as a sign of protest at the attack by pro-government assailants Wednesday [14 March], the sources said, adding that the campus gates remained locked from the inside throughout the day.

Later students from the college shouted anti-panchayat (parliament) slogans on the campus and burnt a symbolic figure representing the partyless panchayat. About four students were later arrested.

Witnesses said one of the masked men chased students with a sharp knife and in retaliation the students pelted him with stones and also threw stones at police standing outside the campus gate.

An official source said "the situation was brought under control after a short while and no arrests were made during the day" at the college.

Also Thursday the senior editor and publisher of the popular weekly THE BEEMARSHA (DIALOGUE) Keshav Raj Pindali and staff member Badri Paudyal were arrested at the weekly's office, a source said. THE BEEMARSHA is one of main critics of the Shrestha government and supports a political movement launched last month by banned parties to introduce a multi-party system of government.

30 Student Demonstrators Reportedly Arrested

BK1803142190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 18 (AFP)—The outlawed Nepali Communist Party on Sunday [18 March] staged scattered demonstrations around the capital here, with demonstrators shouting slogans against Nepal's partyless system, party sources said. Large numbers of riot police were deployed to thwart the demonstrations and public meetings, witnesses said.

The communist activists burned symbols of the ruling panchayat system, which bans all political parties, in the Thamel District of Kathmandu, the sources said.

Riot police had cordoned off the area for several hours to disperse the student demonstrators, who had hoisted black flags at the Amrit Science campus and the Tri Chandra campus. About 50 policemen entered the Tri Chandra campus classrooms where students had sealed their mouths with black tape to protest police action at Tri Bhuvan University on Wednesday and Friday, a student said.

Students have decided to stage another protest Monday to protest the most recent police action.

About 30 students, including student leader Top Bahadur Rayamajhi, and demonstrators were reportedly arrested, but authorities have not confirmed this.

Earlier Sunday at the Maharajgunj Nursing Campus, in the outskirts of Kathmandu, a small group carrying black flags also marched to protest what it said was the unruly behaviour of masked pro-panchayat vandals at the engineering campus at Tri Bhuvan University, the party source said.

Demonstrators Allegedly Beaten, Tortured

OW2003115090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1057 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Katmandu, March 20, KYODO—Prodemocracy demonstrators in Nepal have been subjected to harsh treatment that included beatings and torture under detention, a Nepalese language newspaper reported Tuesday.

The newspaper quoted eyewitnesses as saying that four persons held following a demonstration in Janakpur, about 120 kilometers southeast of the capital, were beaten on March 14. "SAMAJ," published in Katmandu, also demanded information concerning the identity and circumstances of a youth who was allegedly brought to a health center at Itahari, southern Nepal, in a police van. The youth later died during treatment.

Meanwhile, the newspaper said the situation in the Chitwan District, about 70 kilometers southwest of the capital, remains unsettled. The district's headquarters of Narayanghat was the scene of violent prodemocracy demonstrations last month.

According to the newspaper, some 245 persons are still being held at Tikauli and are being given food and water in very small quantities once a day.

The police allegedly used boots, batons, whips and rifle butts to beat the demonstrators. At least 100 of them have been seriously impaired as a result of being beaten, the daily quoted released detainees as saying.

Riot Police Arrest Hundreds at University

BK2103005690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 20 (AFP)—Four truckloads of riot police descended upon a university auditorium near here Tuesday [20 March] and arrested more than 400 people at a conference where speakers blasted Nepal's crackdown on dissent, witnesses said. But government officials put the number of arrests at 200 and said most would probably be released later after questioning.

The arrests occurred at Tribhuvan University outside Kathmandu, where college administrators, professors, writers, nurses, doctors, engineers, social workers and human rights activists were participating in a conference entitled "Our Responsibilities and the Current Situation."

The meeting comes amid a nationwide movement launched last month to end a 30-year ban on political parties. Thousands of supporters and members of banned political parties have been arrested during the campaign against the non-party panchayat political system.

Among the speakers was former home and law minister Shambhu Prashad Gyanwali, who demanded the government uphold its own laws and end what he said were indiscriminate arrests. Mr. Gyanwali also asked the government to provide humane treatment for those arrested and

urged it to open a dialogue with leaders of the banned parties as a way to end the current political crisis.

Speakers condemned what they claimed was the inhumane treatment of political activists and professionals, including teachers, writers, journalists and college students. They strongly supported the current movement for political and human rights and demanded the release of all professionals, political activists and students.

Earlier in the morning, about 45 students at Saraswati College, which is affiliated with Tribhuvan University, were arrested, a student spokesman said. Nabindra Raj Joshi, the general secretary of the pro-democratic Nepal Students' Union, said that a group of mandales, panchayat supporters, attacked male and female students gathered on the college lawn. Riot police then arrived and arrested the students for allegedly causing trouble. But officials said most of those arrested were released following questioning.

Meanwhile, there were reportedly anti-government demonstrations late Monday in Chitaun, 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of Kathmandu, Pokhara, 225 kilometres (140 miles) west of the capital, and areas outside Bhaktapur, 20 kilometres east of here. Demonstrators reportedly carried torches and shouted anti-panchayat slogans to protest police actions.

Authorities Release Detainees; Arrests Continue

BK2103112690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP)—Nepalese authorities released hundreds of people detained the day before at a university auditorium, but continued their crackdown Wednesday [21 March] with the arrest of 10 students, activists said. Almost all of the 640 who were arrested Tuesday at the Tribhuvan University (TU) auditorium were freed, members of outlawed political parties said, adding about 400 were released in the middle of the night.

Seven public youth college students, which is affiliated with TU, were arrested Wednesday morning in Kathmandu after government symbols were burned, students said.

Nepal Students Union General Secretary Nabindra Raj Joshi said three students were beaten by what he claimed were government-hired thugs as the students were protesting Tuesday's mass arrests.

Three other students were arrested at Satungal village, 18 kilometers (11 miles) west of here, following protests there, members of banned political parties said.

Those released Wednesday included the former justice and home minister, Shambhu Prasad Gyanwali, an academic, Basu Shashi, and some journalists. They were among college administrators, professors, doctors, lawyers, journalists, writers and artists participating at a conference about how they could bring multi-party democracy to Nepal, activists said.

Many speakers denounced the government crackdown on a month-old campaign to end a 30-year ban on political parties. There have been thousands of arrests during this period.

"The police was compelled to detain 150 people from the TU for unconstitutional activities involving even people unrelated to the university, disregarding the dignity of such a sacred institution," said authorities, who announced a lower arrest figure. "Illegal extremist communist workers" and management instructors were planning to fix "the programs in relation to the so-called movement," authorities said. "They were rounded up during their joint meeting in contravention of the sanctity of the Constitution," they said, adding investigations were continuing.

Those still being detained were the vice president of the Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON), Devendra Raj Pandey, the chairman of the Forum for the Protection of Democratic People's Rights, Mathura Shrestha, several local journalists, social workers and students, activists said.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Addresses Jubilee Rally

Vows Continued Support for Kashmir

BK2103011490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1830 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, March 20 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said here Tuesday [20 March] that Pakistan would continue to fully support the movement in Kashmir for secession from India. She also called on New Delhi to honour its pledge to allow self-determination for its only Muslim majority state, the northern third of which is controlled by Pakistan.

"The people of Kashmir had a very genuine demand and India is under obligation to give the Kashmiris their right of self-determination," she told a mass rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan ground here. "India should honour her commitment," she told the crowd, citing a promise made by India's first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Ms. Bhutto said Pakistan had deep links with the people of Kashmir and "it was not possible for us to keep silence when the people of Kashmir were fighting for their freedom.

"Support to the liberation movement all over the world was a policy of Pakistan Government," she said, adding that on the basis of this principle Islamabad had supported independence movements in Afghanistan, Palestine and Zimbabwe.

She said the struggle in Kashmir was part of an independence wave sweeping across the world, adding she hoped the "sacrifices" being made by Kashmiris would not go in vain.

Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain and partition in 1947 over Kashmir which acceded to India in 1947. Relations between the two countries have soured recently over Kashmir where Muslim militants are leading a bloody campaign for secession from New Delhi.

Turning to Afghanistan, Ms. Bhutto stressed that "Pakistan had suffered tremendously" during the past 10 years but it had never waivered in its support to the Afghan resistance. The seven Sunni Muslim Afghan resistance factions are based in Peshawar in Pakistan.

Tuesday's rally marks the golden jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution adopted here on March 23, 1940 on the same site as the planned rally to demand a separate homeland for Muslims in the Indian subcontinent then under British rule.

From the airport the prime minister was flown by helicopter to the Lahore railway station where tens of thousands of people waving red-green-black flags of her ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) gave her a tumultuous welcome.

Dressed in white Ms Bhutto was driven in an open truck decorated with national and party flags at the head of a large procession which took several hours to wind its way towards the venue for the rally. Because of the crowd Ms. Bhutto's vehicle took two hours to cover half the three kilometre (two mile) distance to the ground as people along the route chanted "Welcome, Benazir, welcome," witnesses said.

PPP banners read: "Bhutto symbol of national unity. Bhutto voice of Kashmir. No power on earth can deviate us from our just stand on Kashmir."

The rally is seen as a show of strength for the PPP against the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) and the prime minister's arch rival Nawaz Sharif the chief minister of Punjab Province of which Lahore is the capital. Mr. Sharif was present at the airport to receive the prime minister who also met with senior army officers before leading the procession. On Friday Mr. Sharif is due to hold a separate rally with his COP allies at the same ground.

Ms. Bhutto was stung two months ago when the COP held a huge antigovernment rally in her hometown and power base of Karachi just one day after she gave birth in a hospital there. She was keen to bounce back Tuesday from this setback.

The COP is seeking to put renewed pressure on the prime minister by pushing through a vote of no-confidence under a controversial constitutional clause.

Attendance at public meetings in Pakistan is seen as a measure of a party's popularity.

Talks of Nation's Future

BK2103032190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has urged youths to vow to make Pakistan a great and modern Islamic state by pursuing the glorious mission of the father of the nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In an inspiring address under the shadow of the Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore last night, she called upon youths to take up that challenge of making Pakistan a truly modern state by the time the nation celebrates its golden jubilee of independence. This objective, she said, can be achieved only when youths strictly adhere to Muhammad Ali Jinnah's principles of unity, faith, and organization.

Bhutto recalled that during a brief period of democracy in the early 1970's, several important industrial projects were set up and now when democracy has been restored, youths have the immense responsibility of putting the nation on the path of development.

The prime minister added that she wants to make Pakistan militarily strong, industrially and agriculturally advanced, and a peaceful Islamic nation. She hoped that the nation, which is replete with all kinds of talents, will certainly make Pakistan a modern, advanced, and self-sufficient country.

Benazir Bhutto regretted that the nation had to face martial law three times since its establishment; the assassination of two prime ministers; the cancellation of an agreement to acquire a nuclear reprocessing plant; and the lost of an area in the Siachen. The prime minister said it is time now for rebuilding the country through appropriate planning.

The prime minister also referred to the freedom wave sweeping the world, especially Eastern Europe. She pledged to continue unflinching support to the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir and observed that Kashmiris cannot be deprived of their right to self-determination no matter how much violence and atrocities are committed against them. She added that Pakistan cannot remain a silent spectator when Kashmiris are writing the resolution of independence with their blood. Since Pakistan has supported liberation movements all over the world, including in Palestine, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Afghanistan, it is impossible to think that it will ignore the great struggle of the people in occupied Kashmir. Benazir Bhutto said Indian authorities should bear in mind that every drop of blood of a martyr gives birth to a new holy warrior who will raise the slogan for independence.

Our correspondent reports that hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life and from every corner of the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, attended the rally. Earlier, on her arrival at the Minar-i-Pakistan, the prime minister was accorded an unprecedented and very warm and enthusiastic welcome. Prior to her address, chief ministers of Sind and the North-West

Frontier Province congratulated the nation for celebrating the golden jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution in a grand manner. Malik Saeed Awan, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, who was the stage secretary, said the rally symbolized the nation's unity. About two dozen prominent leaders of the Pakistan Movement also addressed the rally.

Iranian Joint Staff Chief Meets President

LD2003125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] The chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, who is visiting Pakistan at the head of a high-ranking military delegation met and conferred with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at noon today. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report of the meeting.

[Begin correspondent recording] Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, the chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, who is currently visiting Pakistan at the head of a high-ranking military delegation, met Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and discussed bilateral relations with him.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Commodore Sirohey, the chief of the joint staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces, and other members of the Iranian delegation, Mr. Ishaq Khan remarked after welcoming Brig. Gen. Shahbazi and his entourage tJhat the depth of relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan is nothing new, and so does not need confirmation, as the two Muslim nations have shared special peculiarities in their religious and cultural beliefs. Moreover both countries are fully aware of the existing sensitivites in the region.

Brigadier General Shahbazi and his accompanying delegation also met Marshal Hakimullah, chief of the pakistani airforce, this morning. They discussed bilateral relations, specifically in the military field. [end recording]

Delivers Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message

LD2003172690 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 20, IRNA—Iran's Chief of the Joint Staff Brigadier-General 'Ali Shahbazi on Tuesday hand delivered a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The Pakistani president welcomed the visit to Islamabad of the Iranian Army official and thanked him for Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message. He also expressed pleasure with the growing relations, and said the two countries "must be ready to counter threats of the enemies of Islam."

In response, Shahbazi said that the Iranian officials are of the opinion that the Islamic Republic and Pakistan must be fully prepared to fight against the threats of Western and Eastern bloc powers.

Brigadier-General Shahbazi is visiting Islamabad to follow up previous military agreements in principle between the two neighboring countries.

Earlier on Tuesday the Iranian official met with the Pakistani Air Force Commander Marshal Hakimullah Khan, and later visited the science and defence technology organization near Islamabad.

Meets Military Officials

LD2003180190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 90

[Text] We begin the hour's foreign news with a report on the trip to Pakistan by Brigadier General Shahbazi, the Joint Staff chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

[Correspondent] Brig. Gen. 'Ali Shahbazi arrived in Pakistan yesterday for a seven-day official visit at the head of high-ranking military delegation comprised of deputy commanders of the Army's three forces, the deputy defense minister, and a number of officials from various units of the Iranian Army. He paid a visit this morning to the Pakistani Army's Joint Staff Headquarters' outstanding units, and met and conferred with Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey, the chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

During the meeting, which was warmly received by high-ranking officials of the Pakistani Army, Vice Admiral Sirohey welcomed Brig. Gen. Shahbazi and his accompanying delegation and described the visit as one of great importance for his country. He expressed the hope that the two Muslim countries of Iran and Pakistan, which play a special and sensitive role in this region and among other Islamic countries, would bring about a good framework for the development and improvement of the two countries' armed forces by expanding mutual cooperation.

Brig. Gen. Shahbazi and his accompanying delegation also held separate meetings this morning with General Mirza Aslam Beg, the commander of Pakistan's Ground Forces, and with Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, Pakistan's minister of state for defense. In these meetings, too, the two sides discussed how mutual ties, especially in defense matters, could be further expanded, and they emphasized the growing importance of expanded ties.

Sri Lanka

President Closes Israeli Interests Section

BK2003133190 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Mar 90

[Text] President Premadasa has decided to terminate the Israeli interests section, which is now functioning in the U.S. Embassy in Colombo.

In communicating his decision to the foreign minister, Ranja Wijeratne, the president has stated that the termination of the Israeli interests section [words indistinct] commercial value, which he promised to fulfill at the earliest possible opportunity. He has also stated that Sri Lanka will resume diplomatic relations with Israel once she recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, withdraw from all occupied Palestinian territory, and agree to participate in the international conference on the Middle East convened by the United Nations.

The president (?also) informed the foreign minister to instruct the secretary to the minister of foreign affairs to take appropriate action to terminate the Israeli interest section by the 20th of April 1990.

Israel Voices Regret; PLO Response

BK2103080190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 21 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 21 (AFP)—Israel expressed regret Wednesday [21 March] at Sri Lanka's decision to end diplomatic ties between the two countries, but the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hailed the surprise announcement.

"We are extremely disappointed and regret this, and we don't understand the reasons and its timing," Ori Noy, chief of the Israeli interests section in the U.S. Embassy here, said in a telephone interview.

A separate statement issued by the interests section said Israel "will consider re-establishing relations when a change will take place in the policy of Sri Lanka."

The Sri Lankan Government said Tuesday it was breaking diplomatic links with Israel and ordered its interests section in the U.S. Embassy here closed within a month. Israel opened the interests section in May 1984, as part of a quasi-restoration of bilateral ties.

A communique from the presidential secretariat also criticised Tel Aviv for not recognising the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and for not vacating "occupied Palestinian territory."

The decision was immediately welcomed by most Sri Lankan political parties, including the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, whose government closed the Israeli Embassy here and broke diplomatic relations in 1970.

PLO Charge d'Affaires 'Umar Abu-Rashid said Wednesday "it is a correct decision (taken) at the correct time," adding that the PLO had always considered the Israeli interests section "not correct". "But we never interfered in this matter since it was a matter of Sri Lanka's sovereignty," he said. "The circumstances in which the Israelis were brought here have completely changed," Mr. Rashid said without elaborating.

In addition to the interests section, Israel has agricultural experts in Sri Lanka and provides scholarships to numerous Sri Lankans for study in Israel in various fields including agriculture, public health, medicine and community development.

The Israeli statement said Colombo's decision to close the interests section by April 20 "will indeed affect the cooperation which has been established between the two peoples."

Mr. Noy said he could not specify when the interests section here would close. A spokeswoman for the interests section said it would "work in close collaboration with the U.S. Embassy on that."

The PLO office in Colombo opened in 1975 and was granted embassy status at about the same time the Israeli interests section opened.

Sri Lanka was among the first 20 countries to recognise the state of Palestine after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced its creation in November 1988, in Algiers.